PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 513 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
5 July 2010—15 July 2010

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

(Formed by the Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP, May 2010)

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service—The Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP

Deputy Prime Minister and Lord President of the Council—The Rt Hon. Nick Clegg, MP

First Secretary of State and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—The Rt Hon. William Hague, MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer—The Rt Hon. George Osborne, MP

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice—The Rt Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equalities—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP

Secretary of State for Defence—The Rt Hon. Liam Fox, MP

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills—The Rt Hon. Vince Cable, MP

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions—The Rt Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, MP

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change—The Rt Hon. Chris Huhne, MP

Secretary of State for Health—The Rt Hon. Andrew Lansley, CBE, MP

Secretary of State for Education—The Rt Hon. Michael Gove, MP

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government—The Rt Hon. Eric Pickles, MP

Secretary of State for Transport—The Rt Hon. Philip Hammond, MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—The Rt Hon. Caroline Spelman, MP

Secretary of State for International Development—The Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell, MP

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland—The Rt Hon. Owen Paterson, MP

Secretary of State for Scotland—The Rt Hon. Michael Moore, MP

Secretary of State for Wales—The Rt Hon. Cheryl Gillan, MP

Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport—The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP

Chief Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt Hon. Danny Alexander, MP

Leader of the House of Lords and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—The Rt Hon. Lord Strathclyde

Minister without Portfolio—The Rt Hon. Baroness Warsi

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

Business, Innovation and Skills—

Secretary of State and President of the Board of Trade—The Rt Hon. Vince Cable, MP

Ministers of State—
  Minister for Universities and Science—The Rt Hon. David Willetts, MP
  John Hayes, MP
  Mark Prisk, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Edward Davey, MP
  Edward Vaizey, MP §
  Baroness Wilcox

Cabinet Office—

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General—The Rt Hon. Francis Maude, MP

Minister of State—The Rt Hon. Oliver Letwin, MP

Parliamentary Secretaries—
  Mark Harper, MP
  Nick Hurd, MP

Communities and Local Government—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Eric Pickles, MP

Ministers of State—
  The Rt Hon. Greg Clark, MP
  The Rt Hon. Grant Shapps, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Andrew Stunell, OBE, MP
  Robert Neill, MP
  Baroness Hanham, CBE

Culture, Media and Sport—

Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport—The Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  John Penrose, MP
  Hugh Robertson, MP
  Edward Vaizey, MP §

Defence—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Liam Fox, MP
Minister of State—Nick Harvey, MP (Minister for the Armed Forces)
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Gerald Howarth, MP
  Andrew Robathan, MP
  Peter Luff, MP
  Lord Astor of Hever, DL §

Duchy of Lancaster—

Leader of the House of Lords and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—The Rt Hon. Lord Strathclyde

Education—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Michael Gove, MP
Ministers of State—
  Sarah Teather, MP
  Nick Gibb, MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Tim Loughton, MP
  Lord Hill of Oareford

Energy and Climate Change—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Chris Huhne, MP
Ministers of State—
  Charles Hendry, MP
  Gregory Barker, MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—Lord Marland

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Caroline Spelman, MP
Minister of State—James Paice, MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Richard Benyon, MP
  Lord Henley

Foreign and Commonwealth Office—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. William Hague, MP
Ministers of State—
  Jeremy Browne, MP
  Minister for Europe—David Lidington, MP
  The Rt Hon. Lord Howell of Guildford
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Henry Bellingham, MP
  Alistair Burt, MP

Government Equalities Office—

Minister for Women and Equalities—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP §
Minister for Equalities—Lynne Featherstone, MP §

Health—

Secretary of State—The Rt Hon. Andrew Lansley, CBE, MP
Ministers of State—
  Paul Burstow, MP
  Simon Burns, MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Anne Milton, MP
  Earl Howe

Home Office—

Secretary of State and Minister for Women and Equalities—The Rt Hon. Theresa May, MP §
Ministers of State—
  Minister for Immigration—Damian Green, MP
  Minister for Police—The Rt Hon. Nick Herbert, MP §
  Minister for Security—The Rt Hon. Baroness Neville-Jones
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
  Lynne Featherstone, MP (Minister for Equalities) §
  James Brokenshire, MP

International Development—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Alan Duncan, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—Stephen O'Brien, MP

Justice—

LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
The Rt Hon. Lord McNally
The Rt Hon. Nick Herbert, MP §

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Crispin Blunt, MP
Jonathan Djanogly, MP

Law Officers—

ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Rt Hon. Dominic Grieve, QC, MP

SOLICITOR-GENERAL—Edward Garnier, QC, MP

ADVOCATE-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND—The Rt Hon. Lord Wallace of Tankerness, QC

Leader of the House of Commons—

LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND LORD PRIVY SEAL—The Rt Hon. Sir George Young, MP

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY—David Heath, CBE, MP

Northern Ireland—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Owen Paterson, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—Hugo Swire, MP

Privy Council Office—

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL—The Rt Hon. Nick Clegg, MP

Scotland Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Michael Moore, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. David Mundell, MP

Transport—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Philip Hammond, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Theresa Villiers, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Norman Baker, MP
Mike Penning, MP

Treasury—

PRIME MINISTER, FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY AND MINISTER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE—The Rt Hon. David Cameron, MP

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER—The Rt Hon. George Osborne, MP

CHIEF SECRETARY—The Rt Hon. Danny Alexander, MP

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—Mark Hoban, MP

EXCHEQUER SECRETARY—David Gauke, MP

ECONOMIC SECRETARY—Justine Greening, MP

COMMERCIAL SECRETARY—Lord Sassoon

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY—The Rt Hon. Patrick McLoughlin, MP

LORDS COMMISSIONERS—
Michael Fabricant, MP
Angela Watkinson, MP
Jeremy Wright, MP
Brooks Newmark, MP
James Duddridge, MP

ASSISTANT WHIPS—
Philip Dunne, MP
Stephen Crabb, MP
Robert Goodwill, MP
Shailesh Vara, MP
Bill Wiggin, MP
Chloe Smith, MP
Norman Lamb, MP
Mark Hunter, MP

Wales Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Cheryl Gillan, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—David Jones, MP

Work and Pensions—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
    The Rt Hon. Chris Grayling, MP
    Steve Webb, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
    Maria Miller, MP
    Lord Freud

Her Majesty's Household—

LORD CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt Hon. Earl Peel, GCVO, DL

LORD STEWARD—The Earl of Dalhousie

MASTER OF THE HORSE—Lord Vestey, KCVO

TREASURER—The Rt Hon. John Randall, MP

COMPTROLLER—Alistair Carmichael, MP

VICE-CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt Hon. Mark Francois, MP

CAPTAIN OF THE HONOURABLE CORPS OF GENTLEMEN-AT-ARMS—The Rt Hon. Baroness Anelay of St Johns, DBE

CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD—The Rt Hon. Lord Shutt of Greetland, OBE

BARONESSES IN WAITING—Baroness Northover, Baroness Rawlings, Baroness Verma

LORDS IN WAITING—Earl Attlee, Lord Astor of Hever §, DL, Lord De Mauley, TD, Lord Taylor of Holbeach, CBE, Lord Wallace of Saltaire

§ *Members of the Government with responsibilities in more than one area*

SECOND CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING CHURCH COMMISSIONERS—Tony Baldry, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Speaker—The Rt Hon. John Bercow, MP

Chairman of Ways and Means—Lindsay Hoyle, MP
First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—Nigel Evans, MP
Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means—The Rt Hon. Dawn Primarolo, MP

Panel of Chairs
Mr David Amess, MP, Hugh Bayley, MP, Miss Anne Begg, MP, Mr Joe Benton, MP, Mr Clive Betts, MP, Mr Peter Bone, MP, Mr Graham Brady, MP, Annette Brooke, MP, Martin Caton, MP, Mr Christopher Chope, MP, Katy Clark, MP, Mr David Crausby, MP, Philip Davies, MP, Jim Dobbin, MP, Mr Roger Gale, MP, Mr James Gray, MP, Mr Mike Hancock, MP, Mr Philip Hollobone, MP, Mr Jim Hood, MP, The Rt Hon. George Howarth, MP, Mrs Anne Main, MP, Dr William McCrea, MP, Miss Anne McIntosh, MP, Mrs Linda Riordan, MP, John Robertson, MP, Andrew Rosindell, MP, Jim Sheridan, MP, Mr Gary Streeter, MP, Mr Andrew Turner, MP, Mr Charles Walker, MP, Joan Walley, MP, Mr Mike Weir, MP, Hywel Williams, MP

House of Commons Commission
The Rt Hon. The Speaker (Chairman), Sir Stuart Bell, MP, Nick Harvey, MP, The Rt Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP, The Rt Hon. Sir George Young, MP
Secretary of the Commission—Dorian Gerhold
Assistant Secretary—Robert Cope

Administration Estimate Audit Committee
Alex Jablonowski (Chairman), Clive Betts, MP, Nick Harvey, MP, The Rt Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP, Stephen Brooker, Mark Clarke
Secretary of the Audit Committee—Hannah White, PhD

Management Board
Malcolm Jack, PhD (Chief Executive), Robert Rogers (Director General, Chamber and Committee Services), John Pullinger (Director General, Information Services), Andrew Walker (Director General, Resources), John Borley, CB (Director General, Facilities), Joan Miller (Director of Parliamentary ICT) (External Member), Alex Jablonowski (External Member)
Secretary of the Management Board—Philippa Helme

Speaker's Secretary—John Benger (Acting)
Head of Speaker's Office—Kate Emms (Acting)
Speaker's Counsel—Michael Carpenter
Speaker's Chaplain—Rev. Canon Robert Wright
Medical Adviser to the Speaker—Dr Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst, RCOG

Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards—John Lyon, CB

Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator—Peter Mason

5 July 2010

Written Ministerial Statement

Monday 5 July 2010

TREASURY

Public Spending Control

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): The Government's top priority is to take early action to tackle the unprecedented deficit and restore confidence in the economy.

Within 10 days of taking office, the Government took decisive action to find £6.2 billion of efficiency savings in 2010-11.

We have since conducted a review of all spending decisions approved by the previous Government in their final months of office, and I presented the conclusions of this review to the House on 17 June 2010.

I also informed the House on 17 June that, while conducting this review, we had discovered yet another legacy issue that needed to be addressed. The previous Government made billions of pounds of spending commitments for this financial year that relied upon underspending across Government via the end-year flexibility (EYF) system or on additional funding from the reserve.

However, it was highly unrealistic to expect that underspending would have been sufficient to cover these commitments. There is insufficient contingency in the reserve to cover the remainder. Without remedial action, the difference would result in higher borrowing this year. It is clear that commitments of this scale should never have been entered into.

In order to address this serious situation, the Treasury has worked with Departments to cancel £1.5 billion of commitments that relied upon access to the reserve and EYF to deal with the most serious pressures. These decisions are an unavoidable consequence of the unaffordable level of previous commitments. The details are given in the table below.

Department	*Savings Announced (£m)*
Department for Education	1000
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	265
Department for Communities and Local Government	220
Home Office	55
Total	1540

As these commitments relied upon the drawdown of additional funding later this year rather than money already in budgets, the existing departmental expenditure limits (DELs) of these Departments will remain unchanged.

The EYF and reserve deals for other Departments remain under review, in the usual way, until later in the financial year when likely departmental underspending figures for 2010-11 will become clearer. Final allocations of EYF and reserve funding will be determined on a basis of need, realism and the wider fiscal position, and announced at the time of spring supplementary estimates later in the financial year.

Cancelling the commitments for additional funding set out above and working to manage down remaining claims over the course of the year, will help create contingency in the reserve to meet further pressures that might arise over the course of the year, without increasing borrowing.

The Government will meet the previous Government's EYF and reserve commitments to the devolved Administrations, including those in the financial package agreed with the Northern Ireland Executive to support the devolution of policing and justice powers.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 6 July 2010

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service Compensation Scheme

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): The Government intend to limit the amount of benefit payable to civil servants under certain schemes made under the Superannuation Act 1972. In the light of the extremely difficult fiscal circumstances facing the national economy, the Government have no option but to take steps to ensure that any scheme for civil servants is affordable in the economic climate.

Earlier this year, the previous Government introduced a revised civil service compensation scheme that introduced a two-year cap on the payment of compensation for loss of office, or redundancy. The terms of this scheme were agreed with the FDA, Prospect, the GMB, Unite and the Prison Officers' Association. One union, however, the PCS, did not agree, sought judicial review in the High Court, and won. The revised scheme was accordingly quashed. The previous scheme is therefore once again in force. This scheme is prohibitively expensive—in some cases worth up to six and two thirds years of salary. We believe swift action to curb its excesses is essential. We take this step without relish. It has been made necessary by the unilateral action taken by PCS, acting on its own, to contest the previous Government's scheme.

I will therefore bring legislation to the House as soon as parliamentary time allows in a Bill to limit the costs of future compensation payments for both compulsory and voluntary civil service exits. Specifically, the Bill will propose that all departures on compulsory terms from the civil service will be capped at a maximum of 12 months salary and departures under any other voluntary arrangements will be capped at 15 months salary.

I am at the same time writing to the Council of Civil Service Unions, inviting them to begin immediate discussions to negotiate a sustainable and practical long-term successor scheme.

My letter will make clear that the Government wish, in discussion with the trade unions, a fair and practical settlement. Such a settlement will need to be fair, and in particular to provide a higher-level of protection for lower-paid workers. I have also indicated to the trade union side that I would be content (in the interests of reaching a settlement) for a discussion to take place on the most suitable terms for voluntary departures.

Having acted swiftly to limit the costs of future compensation payments I hope that the Government's invitation to the Council of Civil Service Unions will be received in the spirit it is offered and that they will engage speedily and constructively with a view to reaching an agreed, fair and sustainable long-term civil service compensation scheme. I believe that with goodwill and determination a new scheme could be in place by the time the Bill made necessary by the PCS action reaches the statute book.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Reorganisation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): On Monday 5 July, the High Court decided to quash, in their entirety, the Structural Change Orders creating unitary councils for the cities of Exeter and Norwich. As a result the terms of office of one third of the members of Exeter and Norwich city councils, which had been extended by the orders, ended on the 5 July and there will be by-elections to fill these vacancies within 35 days as required by statute. Moreover, the decisions taken in March to implement the unitary proposals for Norwich and Exeter by the then Secretary of State, are now overturned.

I am today announcing to the House how I propose to respond to this situation, which quashing the orders has created.

I recognise that there will now be elections for one third of councillors in Norwich and Exeter within the next five weeks, and that this will involve the councils in additional costs. This is an unfortunate consequence of the previous Government's reckless move to drive through unnecessary unitary proposals which did not comply with their own criteria, and have now been found to be unlawful by the courts.

As to the future of the unitary proposals, on which decisions can now be taken afresh, the Secretary of State does not intend to take any such decisions. If Parliament enacts the Local Government Bill, which received its Second Reading in the other place on Wednesday 30 June, all uncompleted plans for unitary restructuring in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk will end. The Bill provides that no order may be made for implementing a unitary proposal received by the Secretary of State before the commencement of the Act.

As a result of quashing the orders certain provisions currently in the Bill are no longer needed. These are clause 1(3) of the Bill, which currently revokes the Structural Change Orders for Exeter and Norwich quashed by the Court, and clause 2 of the Bill which made consequential electoral arrangements on the revocations of those orders. Accordingly we are considering on how to appropriately amend the Bill in the other place.

The Government welcome the Court's confirmation that the orders are unlawful. This decision along with the Local Government Bill currently before the other place will put an end to all the remaining costly and disruptive unitary proposals.

Regional Strategies

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): Today I am taking the first step to deliver our commitment in the coalition agreement to

> "rapidly abolish regional spatial strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils",

by revoking regional strategies.

Regional strategies added unnecessary bureaucracy to the planning system. They were a failure. They were expensive and time-consuming. They alienated people, pitting them against development instead of encouraging people to build in their local area.

The revocation of regional strategies will make local spatial plans, drawn up in conformity with national policy, the basis for local planning decisions. The new planning system will be clear, efficient and will put greater power in the hands of local people, rather than regional bodies.

Imposed central targets will be replaced with powerful incentives so that people see the benefits of building. The coalition agreement makes a clear commitment to providing local authorities with real incentives to build new homes. I can confirm that this will ensure that those local authorities which take action now to consent and support the construction of new homes will receive direct and substantial benefit from their actions. Because we are committed to housing growth, introducing these incentives will be a priority and we aim to do so early in the spending review period. We will consult on the detail of this later this year. These incentives will encourage local authorities and communities to increase their aspirations for housing and economic growth, and to deliver sustainable development in a way that allows them to control the way in which their villages, towns and cities change. Our revisions to the planning system will also support renewable energy and a low-carbon economy.

The abolition of regional strategies will provide a clear signal of the importance attached to the development and application of local spatial plans, in the form of local development framework core strategies and other development plan documents. Future reform in this area will make it easier for local councils, working with their communities, to agree and amend local plans in a way that maximises the involvement of neighbourhoods.

The abolition of regional strategies will require legislation in the "Localism Bill" which we are introducing this session. However, given the clear coalition commitment, it is important to avoid a period of uncertainty over planning policy, until the legislation is enacted. So I am revoking regional strategies today in order to give clarity to builders, developers and planners.

Regional strategies are being revoked under s79(6) of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and will thus no longer form part of the development plan for the purposes of s38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Revoking, and then abolishing, regional strategies will mean that the planning system is simpler, more efficient and easier for people to understand. It will be firmly rooted in the local community. And it will encourage the investment, economic growth and housing that Britain needs.

We will be providing advice for local planning authorities today and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

EDUCATION

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Sarah Teather): I have asked Dame Clare Tickell, chief executive of Action for Children, to carry out an independent review of the early years foundation stage (EYFS). I have written to Dame Clare today to set out the remit of this review and I would like to take this opportunity to provide the House with further details.

I recognise that the EYFS has helped to promote a consistent approach to early learning and development of children aged 0-5, and has done much to raise standards, and keep children safe. However, I am concerned that the framework is too rigid and puts too many burdens on the early years workforce. I have asked Dame Clare to consider what the evidence tells us about how children can best be supported in their early learning, particularly children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and how all children should be prepared to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by more formal learning in primary school. I have also asked her to consider how to reduce the burden of the EYFS on those who have to deliver it.

The review will cover four main areas:

Scope of regulation—whether there should be a single framework for all early years providers;

Learning and development—looking at the latest evidence on how children are best supported in their learning and development and what is needed to give them the best start at school;

Assessment—how young children's development should be assessed;

Welfare—the minimum standards to keep children safe and support their healthy development.

We need a framework that raises standards and keeps children safe. But we also need framework which is responsive to the needs of parents and supports a diverse and flexible childcare market.

I am delighted that Dame Clare has agreed to lead this important review of the EYFS. Her knowledge of the needs of children and families, especially those from more disadvantaged areas, and the importance of early intervention means she is well placed to advise on how young children can best be supported, and how we can free up the system so that it works for both childcare workers and parents.

The review will start in September this year, and I have asked Dame Clare to produce her final report in spring 2011. We will be looking to implement any changes from September 2012 onwards.

I have placed a copy of the letter sent today to Dame Clare in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

European Parliament Transitionary Protocol

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The EU treaties, as amended by the treaty of Lisbon, provide for the allocation of 18 extra MEPs to 12 member states, including the UK which gains one extra MEP. The number of MEPs from Germany is also reduced by three. Last year's European Parliament elections were held under the provisions of the Nice treaty, given that the Lisbon treaty had not at that stage entered into force, and so these additional MEPs were not elected at that time. To allow the extra MEPs provided for to be elected in the current 2009-2014 European Parliament and without the three German MEPs having to stand down in the middle of a term of office, transitional arrangements are needed to enable the number of MEPs to exceed temporarily the limit of 750 plus the president which is laid down in article 14(2) of the treaty on European Union.

In order to make the required transitional changes, the member states of the EU agreed a protocol containing transitional arrangements concerning the composition of the European Parliament, via a very limited intergovernmental conference (IGC) in the margins of the 23 June meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of EU member states.

As with all treaty changes, the protocol now requires ratification from all member states before it can enter into force. Any amendment to the EU treaties can only be ratified by the UK if it is approved by Act of Parliament. This is set out in section 5 of the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008. Parliament therefore needs to pass primary legislation before the protocol can be ratified in the UK and the Government intend to include the necessary provision in the forthcoming European Union Bill.

This is a technical change to the treaty relating to numbers of MEPs and does not transfer any power or competence from the UK to the EU. The additional numbers of MEPs are entitled to take their seats in 2014—this protocol simply means that they will be able to do so earlier than this date.

Details of the process to be undertaken to elect the UK's extra MEP will be announced in due course.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DFID's Programme (Nepal)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): Today we are publishing by Command Paper the Government response to the former International Development Committee's report on DFID's programme in Nepal. The report was published on 28 March 2010.

The report was generally positive about DFID's programme in Nepal. The report also recognises the difficulties of working in Nepal, and the complexities and fragility of the peace process. The Minister of State for International Development visited Nepal on 26 to 28 May 2010. The visit deepened the UK Government's understanding of DFID's Nepal programme.

JUSTICE

Data Protection Legislative Framework

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, Lord McNally, has made the following written ministerial statement:

"Today I have issued a call for evidence on current data protection law to help inform the UK's position on the forthcoming negotiations on a new comprehensive EU instrument for data protection, which are expected to commence in early 2011.

On 18 March 2010 the European Commission announced its intention to produce a proposal which would reform the European Data Protection Directive before the end of 2010. The call for evidence issued by the Government today will ensure that the UK can be fully informed ahead of negotiations on this reform.

The call for evidence seeks evidence about areas of the European Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC and the Data Protection Act 1998 that may be out of date or could be improved, and also those areas that are working well and should be retained. The Government are encouraging as many people as possible to respond to the call for evidence which will last for three months and is due to close on 6 October 2010.

At the same time as launching this call for evidence, the Government are publishing a provisional post-implementation review impact assessment of the Data Protection Act 1998, on which we would also welcome comments. The provisional post-implementation review impact assessment complements the call for evidence and publication of a full impact assessment is planned for the end of 2010.

Copies of the call for evidence paper and the provisional post-implementation review impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website at www.justice.gov.uk."

NORTHERN IRELAND

Billy Wright Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): In anticipation of the publication of the report of the Billy Wright Inquiry, I have today asked a team of officials to commence the checking of the Inquiry's report in relation to human rights and national security matters, as outlined below. I intend to adopt the same approach as was used for the checking of the report of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry.

I am responsible for publication of the Inquiry's report, once it is delivered to me. I am advised that I have a duty, as a public authority under the Human Rights Act, to act in a way that is compatible with the European convention on human rights (ECHR). To fulfil this duty, I need to take steps to satisfy myself that publication of the report will not breach article 2 of the convention by putting the lives or safety of individuals at risk. I am advised that these obligations must be met by me personally, in my capacity as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Although the Inquiry is also a public authority under the Human Rights Act, I am not entitled to rely on the Inquiry to satisfy my article 2 obligations and I have a duty to assess this myself. I also have a duty to satisfy myself that publication will not put national security at risk, for example by disclosing details of sources of confidential information.

During the course of the Inquiry, the Government and security forces submitted to the Inquiry Panel some material that was relevant to its work but which was too sensitive to be disclosed publicly, sometimes because it contained information which had been provided to the security forces by individuals. If those individuals could be identified from the details they provided it would endanger their lives. I understand that the Inquiry Panel does not intend to refer to any material which would constitute a breach of article 2, or compromise national security, but I have a duty to satisfy myself before publication that none of this material has inadvertently been revealed in the report. The Inquiry Panel also agreed that the identities of a small number of individuals who were engaged on highly sensitive duties should not be disclosed and I need to be assured that these individuals have not been identified.

I have established a small team of officials and legal advisers to assist me in carrying out this necessary exercise. The team will be led by the Northern Ireland Office's principal legal adviser, but will need to include members drawn from the Ministry of Defence, Security Service, and PSNI who are familiar with the sensitive material provided to the Inquiry Panel. They will be granted access to the report under strict terms of confidentiality and for the sole purpose of carrying out the necessary checks, and they will report directly to me alone. Lord MacLean has agreed that this team can carry out the necessary checks on the Inquiry's premises while the report remains in his custody, before it is submitted to me. I have confirmed to Lord MacLean that I am content with this proposal. I understand that the report will be made available for checking today.

I believe that these checks are absolutely necessary in order to meet the legal obligations on me. Following the approach used for the checking of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry report, I have sought Lord MacLean's permission to allow members of the Inquiry legal team to be present during the checking process, to which Lord MacLean has agreed. At all times, members of the Inquiry legal team will be acting as representatives of the Inquiry and not as advisers to me or the checking team.

I want to publish the report in its entirety. Should any concerns about the safety of any individual arise, my first course of action would be to consider whether these can be addressed through alternative means. Were I to reach the conclusion, on advice, that a redaction to the text might be necessary, I would consult Lord MacLean. In the very unlikely event that any redaction was deemed necessary, my intention would be to make this clear on the face of the report.

The report must be published first for this House, and I intend to publish the report as soon as possible once the checking process has been completed. However, I acknowledge the importance of this Inquiry's findings in the lives of a number of individuals. As with the publication of the Bloody Sunday Inquiry report, I intend to consider giving advance sight to those who were designated as Represented Parties by the Inquiry. I intend to discuss this with the Speaker of this House in due course.

TRANSPORT

Rolling Stock

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I am today announcing that a decision on the future of the intercity express programme (IEP) will be made at the same time as the spending review announcement in October. IEP would provide new trains for the east coast and Great Western main lines, and is separate from the high speed 2 proposal. IEP is a complex programme which has interdependencies with several other major rail projects, and as expenditure on rail projects will necessarily be reassessed in the context of the spending review, it would be irresponsible to make a decision on IEP in isolation at this time.

Agility Trains was appointed preferred bidder to build and maintain the new IEP fleet in February 2009. In February of this year, the previous Government invited Sir Andrew Foster, former head of the Audit Commission, to provide an independent assessment of the value for money of the intercity express programme and the credibility and the value for money of any alternatives which meet the programme's objectives. Sir Andrew presented his report to me at the end of June, and I am publishing it today.

Sir Andrew suggests that the inter-city express proposition is "positive and attractive" in a number of ways. He suggests that the PFI-style funding arrangement is novel and well aligned in terms of financial incentives. The faster acceleration and longer carriages would have a positive impact on network and passenger capacity, and the specification has also taken network sustainability and environmental imperatives seriously.

Sir Andrew does express some doubts over the technical feasibility of the new bi-mode trains, but I see this as a lesser issue. While this is a clearly challenging project, I have been impressed by Agility's willingness to take on the commercial risk for the reliability and performance of the trains. In addition, Hitachi—Agility's major shareholder—has already demonstrated its commitment to delivering high quality products to the UK rail market through its development and deployment of the new Javelin trains for high speed 1.

While Sir Andrew's report acknowledges that the programme has exceeded the Department's value for money thresholds, the value for money has declined over time, and Sir Andrew suggests that he is not convinced that all of the viable alternatives to the programme have been assessed alongside it on an equal footing. Therefore the Government will use the period until the spending review announcement in October to give further consideration to the alternatives to IEP.

Sir Andrew also expressed some concern over the widespread scepticism of the programme within the rail industry. He suggests that the need for commercial confidentiality in the much delayed procurement process—that was run by the previous administration—has resulted in insufficient communication between the Department and the key stakeholders. Despite involving the rail industry in the procurement process, a sense of disengagement developed, which could have been avoided.

This Government fully recognise these concerns and we are already acting on them. In future, we will involve the rail industry more fully in decision making. We have already invited the industry to contribute to Sir Roy McNulty's review of costs in the rail sector. In addition, we have announced that we will consult widely on franchising policy, allowing the industry to suggest ways to improve the efficiency and value for money of rail franchises, for both taxpayers and farepayers. We will also work with the rail industry to consider how best, in future, to procure and implement major investments in rolling stock, as well as how best to implement the changes that follow from the spending review.

Finally, it remains for me to thank Sir Andrew Foster, Agility Trains and those from the across the rail industry who contributed to the review.

Copies of Sir Andrew Foster's report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Departments website (www.dft.gov.uk).

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 7 July 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ordnance Survey (Performance Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Hanham CBE, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> Ordnance Survey will report externally against a set of agency performance monitors as required of all Executive agencies in Government:
>
> > To achieve an operating profit before exceptional items, interest and dividends of £11.8 million for the financial year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.
> >
> > Some 99.6% of significant real-world features greater than six months old are represented in the database.
> >
> > To achieve a free cash flow before exceptional items of £19.6 million for the financial year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.
> >
> > To continue to reduce the underlying cost base of the business by on average 5% per annum measured against a baseline of 2008-09 costs.
> >
> > To achieve a customer index score of at least 80%.
>
> These targets reflect Ordnance Survey's continuing commitment to customers, to implementing the business strategy announced in April 2009, to maintaining and delivering intelligent geographic information to all users, and to offering improved value for money for all, as well as a commitment to Government policies.

EDUCATION

Behaviour and Discipline (Schools)

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): I would like to announce to the House new measures to be introduced to tackle behaviour and discipline in schools. All pupils should show respect and courtesy towards teachers, towards other staff and towards each other. Head teachers help to create that culture of respect by supporting their staff's authority to discipline pupils. The role of the Government is to give schools the freedom they need to provide a safe and structured environment in which teachers can teach and children can learn.

The coalition agreement sets out this Government's intention to give heads and teachers the powers they need to ensure discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour. It also sets out the Government's intention to give anonymity to teachers accused by pupils and to take other measures to protect against false accusations. Teachers should feel confident in exercising their authority, and pupils should not have to suffer disruption to their education caused by the poor behaviour of others.

Further to my reply in Education questions on 7 June, I can confirm that we will take steps to strengthen teachers' powers to search pupils. We intend to introduce regulations to add personal electronic devices (mobile phones, iPods and personal music players); pornography; fireworks; cigarettes and other tobacco; and "legal highs" to the list of items for which teachers can search. Our intention is for these regulations to come into effect from this autumn. In the next education Bill, we intend to give teachers a more general search power covering any item which may cause disorder or pose a threat to safety.

We will also take steps to reduce the bureaucratic burden on schools when giving pupils detentions. We intend to repeal the legislation that requires schools to give parents 24 hours written notice of detentions outside school hours. Schools will be free to determine and publicise their own rules on notice for detentions. As a result, teachers should be able to deal with misbehaviour on the day it occurs.

We will issue much shorter and clearer guidance which explicitly states that teachers can physically remove disruptive children from class and prevent them from leaving a room in situations where this is necessary to maintain order. We will seek to ensure that prosecutors, those exercising disciplinary powers and those determining complaints against teachers are aware of the new guidance. We are determined that teachers should have the protection they need and we will take all necessary steps, legislating further if necessary, to ensure this happens.

Finally, we will give teachers the strongest possible protection from false accusations. We will give anonymity to teachers facing accusations from pupils. This Government want to put an end to rumours and malicious gossip about innocent teachers which can ruin careers and even lives.

We will be announcing further measures in due course, including measures to tackle bullying, head teachers' powers to exclude children and the reform of alternative provision.

The changes announced today are the first step in a programme of reform. We will be consulting with teachers about taking forward these measures and the case for further reform. We will take the necessary action to ensure that schools can bring order and discipline to every classroom so that all children are able to achieve to the best of their ability.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 8 July 2010

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Court of Justice of the European Union

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): At a conference of representatives of Governments of member states on 8 July 2010 the appointment of a Netherlands judge to the General Court is to be considered.

The nomination is in respect of: Marc Van Der Woude.

Having consulted with the Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice and Attorney-General, the Foreign Secretary agrees to the appointment.

Court of Justice of the European Union (Correction)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): A written ministerial statement on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 13WS made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs stated that Otto Czúcz, a Hungarian judge was to be reappointed to the General Court on 23 June 2010. The reappointment did not take place on that date and is to be considered at a conference of representatives of Governments of member states on 8 July 2010.

The Foreign Secretary agrees to the reappointment having consulted with the Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice and Attorney-General.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DFID Programme (Zimbabwe)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): Today we are publishing by Command Paper the Government response to the former International Development Committee's report on DFID's programme in Zimbabwe. The report was published on 26 March 2010.

The report gives a sound endorsement of the UK's work in Zimbabwe. I visited Zimbabwe in September 2009 and commend the Committee's understanding of both the challenges Zimbabwe faces and the significant potential to rebuild the country when political progress permits. The UK remains committed to playing a leading role in Zimbabwe, both in helping the poorest and most vulnerable people to meet their basic needs and in supporting the process of reform.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Sentence Review Commissioners

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I have today arranged for the annual report of the Sentence Review Commissioners for Northern Ireland to be laid in the House. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I wish to inform the House about the Government's intentions concerning the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations (S.I. 2010/1228).

These regulations were laid before the House on 9 April 2010.

There is no doubt that ship-to-ship transfers require some form of regulation because of their potential for damage to the UK's seas and coasts. The regulations endeavour to address this in two separate and distinct ways:

> they prohibit ship-to-ship transfers and bunkering operations outside harbour authority waters; and
>
> they put in place a legislative regime for assessing and licensing harbour authorities which propose to allow ship-to-ship transfers in their waters.

I am aware that there have been concerns expressed by industry and by some hon. Members about some aspects of these regulations. I am also conscious that there are those who support the regulations in their current form.

The key objective has to be to ensure that the regulations are fit for purpose and do not apply additional, unnecessary burdens to industry.

I am also committed to ensuring that the policy and legislative processes associated with the passage of the regulations are entirely proper and fully consistent with the principles of better regulation.

Accordingly, I am today announcing a review of the regulations. I would like to invite all interested parties—including hon. Members, local authorities, industry and environmental non-governmental organisations—to set out their views on the regulations by 30 September. I also intend to meet some of the interested parties.

To allow the necessary time for this review to be carried out, I am today laying before the House a Statutory Instrument, the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010 No.1769), which defers the entry into force of the regulations from 1 October to 1 April 2011.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Occupational Pensions

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Budget statement on 22 June that, with some exceptions, consumer prices rather than retail prices will be the basis for uprating most benefits and public sector pensions.

The Government believe the CPI provides a more appropriate measure of pension recipients' inflation experiences and is also consistent with the measure of inflation used by the Bank of England. We believe, therefore, it is right to use the same index in determining increases for all occupational pensions and payments made by the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) and Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS).

Consequently we intend to use the CPI as the basis for determining the percentage increase in the general level of prices for the 12 months ending 30 September 2010 when preparing the order required under paragraph 2(1) of schedule 3 to the Pension Schemes Act 1993 in relation to revaluation and indexation of pension rights in defined benefit pension schemes, and the order made under section 109 of that Act in relation to increases in guaranteed minimum pensions paid by contracted-out defined benefit schemes in respect of pensionable service between 1988 and 1997; and to amend legislation to enable CPI to be used for relevant increases in respect of the PPF and FAS.

Using CPI will mean making some small changes to primary legislation to ensure we can apply it fully in every circumstance. We will bring these before Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 12 July 2010

CABINET OFFICE

National School of Government

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): The 2009-10 annual report and accounts for the National School of Government have been laid before Parliament today. The report has been placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members and copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

EDUCATION

Children's Commissioner for England

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I am today announcing that the Government have commissioned Dr John Dunford OBE, currently general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, to carry out an independent and consultative review of the office, role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for England. Dr Dunford has wide practical experience of the reality of children's lives. I have written to him today to set out the remit of this review and would like to take this opportunity to provide the House with further details.

The education, health and well-being of children are vitally important for our society. The Government are committed to the United Nations convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC) and believe it is vital that children and young people have a strong, independent advocate to champion their interests and views and to promote their rights.

The role of Children's Commissioner for England was created by the Children Act 2004 with a remit to promote awareness of the views and interests of children in England. I would like to acknowledge the work that the current commissioner, and her predecessor, have done to this end and make the voices of children and young people heard.

It is now over five years since the first Children's Commissioner for England took up office but the role and remit have not yet been reviewed. There is continued debate about the remit of the post: as compared to its counterparts in other countries and the devolved Administrations; its public profile; and the impact it has had.

The Government have committed, in our coalition agreement, to increase accountability and review the cost of quangos and, therefore, I agree with the broad consensus that it is now time to take stock of the office, role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for England through a detailed and considered review. This will provide an opportunity for the Government to consider the views of a wide range of partners on how Government can best promote children's interests.

The review will take a wide-ranging and independent look at the office, role and function of the Children's Commissioner. Dr Dunford will determine how the review will be conducted but I have asked him to ensure maximum opportunities to consult are taken and to consider the broad spectrum of opinions on this issue including the views of children and young people. With this in mind, I understand that Dr Dunford will be launching a call for evidence and I am sure he will be keen to secure the opinion of parliamentarians.

In particular I have asked for the review to cover three key aspects:

1) The powers, remit and functions of the Children's Commissioner.

2) The relationship with other related functions supported by Government.

3) Value for Money.

A copy of my full remit letter to Dr Dunford is available in the House Library.

I have asked Dr Dunford to provide me with an update in mid-October and a full report by the end of November. I will then consider the recommendations and the implications for any further action by Government, including the need for any legislative change.

The current role and functions of the Office of the Children's Commissioner will of course continue during the period of this review.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (June)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My hon. Friend the Minister of State and the Under-Secretary with responsibility for the natural environment and fisheries, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon), represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 29 June. Richard Lochhead MSP also attended. This was the last Agriculture and Fisheries Council under the Spanish presidency.

On fisheries Commissioner Damanaki set out a fairly clear picture of the current state of fish stocks. The Commission had published its annual policy statement which set out the framework for determining what catch limits would be proposed for 2011, once the scientific advice was published. However, it proposed more strict catch limits for over-exploited stocks to reach the level of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by 2015, in line with agreements at the 2002 Johannesburg World Sustainable Development Summit.

Most fishing member states commented. The UK stressed the following points (with a number of member states supporting each):

> Achieving MSY should be done pragmatically given differences of scientific opinion, and the difficulty of establishing targets for single stocks in mixed fisheries;
>
> Catch limits for stocks with insufficient data should be set as per last year, rather than reduced in line with catches as proposed;
>
> Catch quotas (rather than current landing quotas) should be more widely used on a pilot basis in order to reduce discarded fish;
>
> The quality and coverage of scientific data should be improved, including using industry input.

The Commission welcomed broad support on its approach, but remained firm on pleas for certain stocks; fisheries could not remain sustainable with current levels of fishing and numbers of vessels; changes needed to be made.

Damanaki also pressed the need for radical and fundamental reform of the common fisheries policy (negative economic outlook for most fleet segments; overcapacity driving down profitability leading to unsafe fishing practices, non-EU crew and leading to undue pressure on fishing stocks; negative social aspects; the amount of aid directed to the industry; low employment forecasts). A new regime should include a mix of individual transferable rights and effort management for limiting fishing opportunities and be operated on a much more regionalised basis.

The UK lead the support for this (against French, German and Polish defence of much of the current regime) emphasising the following points:

> Simplified and decentralised decision-making with a more regionalised CFP;
>
> Move away from rigid quota rules; rights for fishing should be transferrable within a member state;
>
> Support for the social and cultural aspects of fishing in coastal communities;
>
> Reduce discarded fish;
>
> Greater integration of fisheries with other marine policies, especially environmental;
>
> No additional regulation of aquaculture at EU level, external fisheries policies to be consistent with internal ones.

There were two points raised under any other business—the Commission emphasising the importance of immediately submitting national programmes for take up of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF); and Ireland drawing attention to Iceland's recent declaration of a very large unilateral quota for mackerel in its waters (with the Faroes also threatening similar action). The UK stressed the vital importance of the mackerel stock to its industry being the most important to it economically. The present actions by Iceland and Faroe Islands were threatening the future sustainability of the stock. The Commission were encouraged (lead by the UK) to adopt a strong position to defend EU interests. The Commission undertook to talk to both countries.

Finally on fisheries, Ministers had an informal discussion on the future of the common market organisation of fisheries.

On agriculture, Council conclusions on the international competitiveness of the European agri-food model adopted as an A item without any comments.

Commissioners Ciolos (Agriculture) and Dalli (Health and Consumer Protection) made presentations on simplification and better regulation. This responded to ongoing pressure from the Council to reduce burdens that affect the competitiveness of the sector, and recognising that these can originate from across the Commission. Attention was drawn to the work the Commission had already completed to simplify existing CAP regulation, but noted too that simplification would not halt there; they would adopt a further simplification package in October. The longer-term reform of the CAP would be a further opportunity for simplification.

Eighteen member states, including the UK, had submitted a political memorandum on CAP simplification. This called for continued simplification now and in CAP reform post-2013, a more risk-based approach to financial controls, to dispense with the use of flat-rate financial corrections, and to proceed in cases of financial irregularity with an eye to the real risk to Community funds. The UK also outlined the newly established UK task force assessing the burden of farm regulation, while drawing particular attention to the complexity, cost and disproportional nature of the Commission's financial control regime.

Next, the presidency sought confirmation of member states' voting intentions on the Commission's proposals to approve the placing on the market for food and feed use (but not cultivation) of five new varieties of genetically modified maize and to renew one existing authorisation. The six draft decisions were referred to the Council under the comitology rules having failed to attract a qualified majority in support when first tabled at the Regulatory Committee earlier this year. Since there was neither a qualified majority in support nor against in the Council, it fell to the Commission to adopt the decisions under its own competence.

Ciolos then introduced the dairy quarterly report which, like its two predecessors, continued to show strongly positive trends for all dairy commodities. The Commission flagged its intention to adopt a dairy package later in the year responding to the final report of the High Level Group on the dairy sector. The incoming Belgian presidency said it would debate the High Level Group report at the July Council.

There were three points raised under any other business. Greece urged the Commission to take action in respect of Argentina's apparent breach of its WTO commitments in blocking imports of Greek canned peaches. The Netherlands encouraged Ministers to attend a conference it would be hosting on 31 October to 5 November in The Hague on food security and climate change. Poland drew attention to the floods that had recently inundated parts of the country.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (July)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My hon. Friend the Minister of State with responsibility for agriculture and food will represent the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 12 July.

This will be the first Agriculture and Fisheries Council under the Belgian presidency, and they will present their Work programme. Discussions will also take place on the following:

> Report of the High Level Group on Milk;
>
> Report on the German Alcohol Monopoly;
>
> Proposal for a regulation amending the Single Common Market Organisation (CMO) regulation with regard to the aid granted in the framework of the German Alcohol Monopoly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Ageing Well Programme

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce Ageing Well, a new programme designed to support local authorities to improve their services for older people. The key aim of the programme is to provide a better quality of life for older people through local services that are designed to meet their needs, and which recognise the huge contribution that people in later life make to their local communities. The programme consolidates current best practice from local authorities and the lessons learned from earlier pilot activities and will be delivered by Local Government Improvement and Development. An essential aspect of the programme is to help authorities to improve efficiency while still delivering quality services.

Ageing Well recognises that local concerns need local solutions and will encourage authorities to take the lead to work in partnership with other local organisations to develop imaginative approaches to the issues faced by their particular communities. We want to help local authorities to use their resources effectively, to promote well-being in later life, to ensure that older people can live independently for longer, to engage older people in civic life and to tackle social isolation by recognising older people's potential. The programme is driven by this Government's view that older people in our society deserve every opportunity to age well, in communities that value their experience.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 13 July 2010

TREASURY

Bank Levy

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced as part of the Budget the introduction of a Bank Levy from 1 January 2011.

Excessive risk taking in the banking sector was a significant contributory factor in the recent financial crisis. Alongside the wider financial regulatory reform aimed at increasing the resilience of the financial sector, the levy is intended to ensure that the banking sector makes a fair contribution that reflects the risks it poses to the financial system and the wider economy, and to encourage banks to move away from riskier funding.

The Government have today published a consultation document setting out issues around technical aspects of the design and implementation of the Bank Levy. This consultation exercise will help to ensure the levy is designed in a way that best meets its objectives, including ensuring the compliance costs faced by firms are minimised.

It is proposed that draft legislation will be published in the autumn to allow for further comments from stakeholders. Final draft legislation for inclusion in the 2011 Finance Bill will be published towards the end of 2010, ahead of implementation of the levy.

Copies of the consultation document are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Independent Public Service Pensions Commission

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): Lord Hutton's terms of reference and "Call for Evidence" are available in the Vote Office and in the Printed Paper Office, and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Periodic updates of the Commission's work will be made available through the website, located at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/indreview_johnhutton_pensions.htm.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

State Visit (Qatar)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I am pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen has invited His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, accompanied by his Consort Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al-Missned to pay a state visit to the United Kingdom from 26 October to 28 October 2010. The visit will further the close relations that exist between the United Kingdom and the State of Qatar.

HEALTH

Health Select Committee Report on Commissioning

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): We are today laying before Parliament the Government's response (Cm 7877) to the Health Select Committee report on commissioning, which was published on 30 March 2010.

The range of the Health Select Committee's inquiry and their report recognise the scale and complexity of the challenge we face. Commissioning is a crucial process in the NHS. It ensures that the health and care services provided effectively meet the needs of the population. It is a complex process with responsibilities ranging from assessing population needs, prioritising health outcomes, procuring products and services to managing service providers.

Since the Health Select Committee's inquiry, there has been a change of administration following a general election in May 2010. The Command Paper published today therefore sets out the present coalition Government's response to the Health Select Committee's fourth report of the session 2009-10.

The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, sets out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision making to local consortia of GP practices supported by an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

The weaknesses in commissioning identified by the Health Select Committee are symptomatic of a system that did not emphasise the importance of clinical involvement in decisions about how the precious resources of the NHS should be spent. We have set out in the White Paper a clear sense of direction, with new rigour and the commitment to put commissioning decisions in the hands of those who are closest to patients themselves—GP practices and other primary care professionals.

Today's publication is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Informal Health Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Anne Milton): European Union Health Ministers met in Brussels for an informal meeting of the EPSCO (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council) Council on 5 and 6 July. I represented the UK.

The morning session of 5 July consisted of a discussion of EU-level collaboration on cancer. A number of member states indicated their support for greater information sharing and production of comparable data on cancer outcomes at EU level.

There was also discussion of the EU's response to the A(H1N1) pandemic (building on the expert conference held on 1 and 2 July by the Belgian presidency). Discussion focused upon the issues of vaccine procurement, and the wider EU co-ordination of pandemic response.

The EU structures for responding to health emergencies (such as pandemics) were also discussed. This included a discussion of the possibility of revising the mandate of the Health Security Committee, whose mandate expires in December 2010.

TRANSPORT

Battery Technology (Correction to Written Answer)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I regret to inform the House that there was an inaccuracy in the answer I gave to parliamentary question 5072 on 5 July, *Official Report*, column 9W, about the research that had been undertaken on battery technology. The £3 million competition that was launched on the 24 June and to which I referred to in my answer, was in fact launched by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, which is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. It was not launched by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills itself.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 14 July 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

UK Inward Investment

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): With my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I am pleased to announce that UK Trade & Investment today launched the UK Inward Investment 2009-10 Report, giving the national figures for inward investment over the last financial year.

The UK's ability to attract and retain inward investment is at the heart of the Government's economic recovery plans. These figures demonstrate how important investment is in stimulating growth and creating jobs.

Competition for this investment is intense, which is why the Government are committed to being open for business, and providing the best environment for investors, whether businesses are established here, expanding here, or locating here for the first time.

We are committed to cutting the deficit, reducing corporation tax, delivering flexible employment and workplace legislation and building the strongest R and D base in Europe.

We must make sure that the world's best companies thrive here, linking up with the UK's talent, creativity, innovation and know-how.

In a year when inward investment fell across Europe, the UK recorded a strong performance, attracting foreign investment from a record 54 countries, between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.

The estimated number of jobs created or safeguarded by inward investment rose to more than 94,000, a 20% increase on the previous year. There were 1,619 direct investments in the UK by foreign-owned companies during the year.

Inward investment is a long-term decision for any company wanting to grow internationally. More investors are seeking to locate in the UK than anywhere else in Europe, helping to underpin the UK's long-term economic prospects.

In line with reduced global market liquidity, the number of acquisitions, joint ventures and mergers taking place fell 51% from 457 in 2008-09 to 225 in 2009-10. But the number of new projects and the number of expansions have both increased, by 3% and 18% respectively.

Companies investing in the UK will do so with confidence. The UK's economy is stable and resilient and this Government are taking action to secure the recovery and future growth. The UK has positioned itself as a springboard for companies seeking to grow internationally, both in and from a UK base.

UK Trade & Investment is the Government Department leading support for such companies in the international business environment. With my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, I congratulate UK Trade & Investment on the role it has played in significantly assisting a record number of FDI projects, nearly half of the total locating in the UK in the year to 31 March 2010.

I am arranging for a copy of the UK Inward Investment 2009-10 Report by UK Trade & Investment to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Park Homes Reforms

The Minister for Housing (Grant Shapps): The Government value the role the park home sector plays in the housing market offering an affordable alternative to mainstream housing for many people, often over the age of 50, in mainly rural, semi-rural and seaside locations. Although many residents appreciate and value the sense of community that park home living engenders, I am aware that many also experience difficulties in exercising their rights and achieving their aspirations. Furthermore, a minority of site owners continue to cause significant problems to residents and the local community in which they operate.

I am, therefore, today announcing that the Government intend, subject to parliamentary consent, to transfer most of the functions of county courts under the Mobile Homes Act 1983 to residential property tribunals. The aim of the transfer of the jurisdiction is to provide residents of park homes and their site owners with a level playing field in the resolution of disputes, by providing access to a dedicated, low-cost specialist (housing) tribunal, which can deal with cases quickly and effectively, without the parties needing to be legally represented. This will mean that park home residents will be able to take action to resolve disputes with site owners, without being restricted by the prospect of facing large legal costs.

I propose to lay before Parliament the necessary secondary legislation to effect the transfer as soon as possible after summer recess, with a view to transferring jurisdiction to the residential property tribunals by the end of the year.

I am also announcing my intention to work closely with interested resident and industry partners in developing potential measures for empowering residents to exercise more control over the management of sites, where there are management failings by site owners which significantly impact upon the well-being of the local communities.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Troop Levels

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The next roulement of UK forces in Afghanistan is due to take place in October 2010. Headquarters, 6 (UK) Division will remain as Headquarters, Regional Command (South) until November 2010 but the UK's current lead formation in Helmand, 4th Mechanized Brigade, will be replaced by 16 Air Assault Brigade. The forces deploying include:

Headquarters, 6 (UK) Division, who will hand over command of Regional Command (South) to 10 (US) Mountain Division on 1 November 2010

16 Air Assault Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (216)

Elements of 1 Mechanized Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (215)

Headquarters, 102 Logistic Brigade

Headquarters, 104 Logistic Brigade

Elements of 845 Naval Air Squadron

Elements of 846 Naval Air Squadron

Elements of 847 Naval Air Squadron

Elements of 857 Naval Air Squadron

Elements of the Royal Naval Regulators

Elements of 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

Elements of 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

Elements of The Household Cavalry Regiment

Elements of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment

Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 39th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 47th Regiment Royal Artillery

23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault)

Elements of 22 Engineer Regiment

Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

Elements of 36 Engineer Regiment

Elements of 39 Engineer Regiment (Air Support)

Elements of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)

Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group

Elements of 2 Signal Regiment

Elements of 3rd Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment

Elements of 10th Signal Regiment

Elements of 14th Signals Regiment (Electronic Warfare)

Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)

1st Battalion Irish Guards

2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Royal Highland Fusiliers

5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment

3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment

1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment

Elements of 1 Regiment, Army Air Corps

Elements of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps

Elements of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps

Elements of 9 Regiment, Army Air Corps

Elements of 9 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 23 Pioneer Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 27 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

16 Air Assault Medical Regiment, Royal Army Medical Corps

7 Air Assault Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Elements of 104 Force Support Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Elements of 6 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

156 Provost Company Royal Military Police

Elements 158 Provost Company Royal Military Police

Elements of Special Investigations Branch Germany

Elements of the Military Provost Staff and Military Provost Staff (Volunteers)

Elements of 1 Military Working Dogs Regiment

Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade

Elements of the Military Stabilisation Support Group (MSSG)

Elements of The Honourable Artillery Company

Elements of 100 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

Elements of 101 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

Elements of 103 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

Elements of 104 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

Elements of 105 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

Elements of 106 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)

Elements of 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (Volunteers)

Elements of 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (Volunteers)

Elements of 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment (Volunteers)

Elements of 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (Volunteers)

Elements of The London Regiment (Volunteers)

Elements of The Welsh Transport Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers)

Elements of 88 Postal and Courier Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 162 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 166 Supply Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 168 Pioneer Regiment (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 148 Expeditionary Force Institute Squadron (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 395 Air Despatch Troop (Volunteers), The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 101 Force Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Elements of 103 Battalion (Volunteers), Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

207 Field Hospital (Volunteers), Royal Army Medical Corps

212 Field Hospital (Volunteers), Royal Army Medical Corps

Elements of the Joint Medical Command

Number 2 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters

Number 7 Royal Air Force, Force Protection Wing Headquarters

Elements of Number 2 Royal Air Force Police Wing

Elements of Number 3 Royal Air Force Police Wing

15 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment

34 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment

Elements of 51 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 101 Squadron Royal Air Force

Elements of 39 Squadron Royal Air Force

12 Squadron, Royal Air Force

14 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 5 (Army Co-operation) Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 18 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 24 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 27 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 28 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 30 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 78 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of the Tactical Supply Wing, Royal Air Force

Elements of 1 Air Mobility Wing, Royal Air Force

Elements of 1 Air Control Centre, Royal Air Force

Elements of 90 Signals Unit, Royal Air Force

Elements of 2 (Mechanical Transport) Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 5001 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 3 Mobile Catering Squadron

Elements of Tactical Medical Wing
Elements of 1 (Expeditionary Logistics) Squadron
Elements of 93 (Expeditionary Armaments) Squadron
Elements of Tactical Imagery Wing

Volunteer and regular members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Afghanistan as part of this integrated force package, and we expect to issue around 770 call-out notices to fill some 600 posts. On completion of their mobilisation procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and, where applicable, integration with their respective receiving units. The majority will serve on operations for around six months. As part of this commitment, we expect up to 16 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

The deployment of 16 Air Assault Brigade and accompanying units will not result in any change to the UK's established and enduring conventional force level of 9,500 personnel.

I shall make a further statement on the units we expect to serve under 16 Air Assault Brigade's planned replacement formation, 3 Commando Brigade, nearer the time of their deployment.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Observer Rights (UN General Assembly)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Lisbon treaty established new structures for the management of the EU's external relations. These are the High Representative, the European External Action Service and the rebranding and amalgamation of Commission and Council Secretariat offices overseas as EU delegations. It is in the UK's interest that, where we have agreed a position with our EU partners, the EU makes its voice heard—complementing and supplementing our role.

A further element of the external representation question is the ability of the EU to participate in international organisations. In some cases, such as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the EU has the status of an observer with limited rights of participation. This means that the EU is not able to represent the EU and the member states, where we have an agreed position, to the same extent as was possible for the rotating presidency, which, of course, was a full member of the UNGA.

Following the entry into force of the treaty of Lisbon the role previously played by the rotating presidency in representing the EU externally has passed to the High Representative and the EU delegations who act under her authority. So, in order for the EU to fill effectively the role previously played by the rotating presidency in the UN General Assembly, the Foreign Secretary has agreed that, together with our EU partners, we should table an UNGA resolution which, if approved by the wider UN membership, would grant the EU certain additional rights as an observer delegation. These rights are, as the proposal stands, the right to speak in a timely manner, the right of reply, the right to circulate documents, the right to make proposals and submit amendments, the right to raise points of order, and more seats for the High Representative and her officials. As is currently the case, the EU will not have the right to vote, it will not be a full member of the UNGA, nor will it be seated among the UN member states.

The granting of such rights to the EU will not affect the UK's position as a member of the UNGA or the UN Security Council. Furthermore, this does not change the existing balance of competence between the EU and member states.

The Foreign Secretary has also made clear through the UK Permanent Representative in New York that the UK's support for the proposed UNGA resolution is (i) strictly limited and does not imply agreement to seek additional rights in any other fora; and (ii) does not prejudge whether the EU should actually exercise those rights on any particular issue.

Discussions are ongoing with the wider membership of the UNGA about granting the EU additional rights of participation. The intention is to table a resolution in the UN General Assembly in the coming weeks.

HEALTH

Health Select Committee Report on Social Care

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I have today laid before Parliament the Government's response to the Health Select Committee's report on social care (Cm7884).

We know that urgent reform of the social care system is needed and we are grateful to the Health Select Committee for its report on social care. This is an important contribution to the debate on how to deliver a care and support system which provides much more control to individuals and their carers, reduces the insecurity they and their families face and ensures that people are treated with dignity and respect.

We have made clear our commitment and determination to move on from more than a decade of indecision on how to fund social care, and to reach a fair and enduring settlement for the system for generations to come. We want a sustainable adult social care system that gives people the support and freedom to lead the life they chose, with dignity.

The coalition agreement sets out our commitment to:

> "establish a commission on long-term care, to report within a year. The commission will consider a range of ideas, including both a voluntary insurance scheme to protect the assets of those who go into residential care, and a partnership scheme as proposed by Derek Wanless".

We recognise that how we should fund care and support is a key question for society to face—and one that will inevitably involve difficult choices and difficult trade-offs. But it is a question we can no longer avoid. We are grateful to the Health Select Committee for its interest in this area and will be recommending that the soon to be established Commission on the Funding of Care and Support consider its report, alongside other contributions to the debate.

We will also take decisive steps to accelerate the pace of reform so that older people and disabled people get the care they need and have more choice and control over how their needs are met. Transformation of services should be a key part of how local authorities continue to deliver services effectively and efficiently during a period of fiscal consolidation. As we take critical steps to reduce the deficit, the right response is for the pace of transformation to increase—maximising the performance and penetration of services such as re-ablement, intermediate care and telecare.

Later this year, we will publish a vision for adult social care, including the key next steps on personalisation.

In addition, as a key component of a lasting settlement for the social care system, we will reform the law underpinning adult social care by creating a single modern statute, helping disabled people, older people and carers to understand whether services can or should be provided. We will be working with the Law Commission as they consider their proposals on this work.

We will bring together the conclusions of the Law Commission and the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, with our vision, into a White Paper in 2011, with legislation following to establish a sustainable legal and financial framework for adult social care in this Parliament.

As a coalition Government, established with the aim of working together in the national interest, we have an unprecedented political opportunity to deliver reform. Care and support is a good example of where we need pragmatic, sustainable proposals to build a new and lasting settlement.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 15 July 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

South West and Yorkshire and Humber Regional Committees

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): This statement provides a Government response in relation to the following reports:

INTRODUCTION

> South West Regional Committee inquiry into the prospects for the South West Economy published on 31 March 2010.
>
> Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Committee inquiry into the Work of Yorkshire Forward published on 16 March 2010.

The dissolution of Parliament in April 2010 did not allow sufficient time for a formal Government response to be sent to these Committees, which following a statement by the Leader of the House on 26 May 2010 will not be re-enacted.

THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

The creation of the coalition Government has meant that the policy context has changed significantly for some issues, which the Committees have highlighted. The "Coalition: our programme for Government", outlines the Government's position on these and other relevant issues. As a consequence the Government do not intend to respond in detail to each of the recommendations. The Government acknowledge the reports of the Committees and thanks the Committee members and witnesses for their contributions.

The South West Regional Committee report—Prospects for South West Economy

The South West Regional Committee report made 15 recommendations and looked at:

> The opportunities that green industries might provide for the people of the region in terms of jobs, skills, supply chains, investment, and the quality of life.
>
> The importance of small and micro businesses, and social enterprises, for the region and the remarkable resilience they have shown through the recession.
>
> The need for greater broadband coverage across the region (especially in rural areas).
>
> South West strengths in advanced manufacturing/composites, creative industries and tourism.
>
> Potential vulnerability of the region's dependence on public sector employment.

The Government share the Committee's conclusions that a green industry provides enormous opportunities for the whole of the United Kingdom. The new green economy, including a green investment bank, is at the heart of this Government's commitments on energy and climate change alongside its role in the wider economy. This Government have also made commitments to increasing opportunities for small businesses both start up and growth and emphasised its desire for an enterprise-led recovery.

The Government notes the Committee's comments on the vulnerability of areas outside of London that are heavily dependent on public sector jobs. To help areas and communities particularly affected by reductions in public spending make the transition to private sector-led growth and prosperity, the Government will create a regional growth fund in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This fund will operate in England only and support proposals from private and public-private bodies that create sustainable increases in business employment and growth. A White Paper later in the summer will set out details of these proposals.

The Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Committee report—Work of Yorkshire Forward

The Government agree with the Committee that Yorkshire Forward has played a part in tackling structural economic problems in Yorkshire and the Humber. However, the Government also note the Committee's concerns that the Regional Development Agency has moved away from its core role and has taken on too many diffuse responsibilities.

The Government are committed to renewing and strengthening local economies and reorganising the delivery of economic development to ensure a focused, targeted delivery of services in areas where it can have the most benefit.

The Government intend to abolish Regional Development Agencies through the Public Bodies Bill and enable elected local authorities, working with business, to lead economic development through new Local Enterprise Partnerships. A White Paper later in the summer will set out details of these proposals.

London Development Agency (Savings 2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): I have written to the Mayor of London to confirm that the London Development Agency will provide £40 million in savings from their budget for 2010-11.

This follows the announcement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 24 May 2010 that the other eight regional development agencies would contribute savings of £270 million in 2010-11.

A copy of my letter addressed to the Mayor of London dated 6 July 2010 has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Terrorist Asset-Freezing

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Following a ruling by the Supreme Court and the passage of temporary asset-freezing legislation in February 2010, the Government are today introducing the Terrorist Asset-Freezing etc Bill in the House of Lords to put the UK's terrorist asset-freezing regime on a secure legislative footing. The Bill will be published tomorrow.

The Bill has been informed by a public consultation exercise on draft legislation that was launched by the previous Government. The Government are today publishing by Command Paper the consultation responses received and the Government's response.

The payment of state benefits to the spouses of designated persons

As a result of concerns raised in consultation responses and in Parliament during the discussion of emergency asset-freezing legislation and in the light of a recent European Court of Justice ruling, the Government are from today removing restrictions imposed by the previous Government on the payment of state benefits to the spouses of people who are subject to an asset-freeze (designated persons).

This Government do not believe that the asset-freezing regime should affect state benefits paid to the spouses or partners of designated persons. They do not believe that such restrictions are necessary to prevent terrorist finance and they are concerned at the impact they may have on other family members and on family life.

The Government are embedding this change in law by including a provision in the Bill to clarify that payments of state benefits to the spouses or partners of people designated by the Treasury under the UK's domestic asset-freezing regime are not caught by asset-freezing provisions. These payments will therefore no longer have to be made under licence from the Treasury.

The Government believe that this approach will ensure that the asset-freezing regime is fairer and more proportionate, while remaining effective in preventing terrorist finance.

Annuities

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): As announced at the emergency Budget, the Government will end the effective requirement to annuitise by age 75 from April 2011. The Treasury has today launched an eight-week consultation on the details of this change. This consultation document sets out proposals that will simplify the treatment of retirement savings and reduce complexity for individuals as well as for pension and annuity providers.

This consultation is being conducted in accordance with the code of practice on consultation and will run from 15 July 2010 until 10 September 2010 inclusive.

Copies of the document are available on the live consultations page of the Treasury website and have been deposited in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

East Midlands, South East and West Midlands Regional Committee

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):

INTRODUCTION

This statement provides a Government response in relation to the following reports:

East Midlands Regional Committee inquiry into "Does the East Midlands get a Fair Share of Funding" published 26 March 2010 (HC 104-I, Session 2009-2010).

South East Regional Committee inquiry into "Housing in the South East" published on 7 April 2010 (HC 403, Session 2009-2010).

West Midlands Regional Committee inquiry into "Planning for the Future: Housing and Economic Development in the West Midlands" published 8 April 2010 (HC 421, Session 2009-2010).

West Midlands Regional Committee inquiry into "Making the Voice of the West Midlands heard: the Work of the Committee, and the future for the Region" published 8 April 2010 (HC 528, Session 2009-2010).

The dissolution of Parliament in April 2010 did not allow sufficient time for a formal Government response to be sent to these Committees, which following a statement made by the Leader of the House on 26 May 2010 will not be re-enacted.

THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

The Committees' reports were written against the backcloth of the previous administration's priorities. The creation of the coalition Government has meant that the policy context has changed significantly for some issues, which the Committees have highlighted. "The Coalition: our programme for government", outlines the Government's position on these and other relevant issues. As a consequence the Government do not intend to respond in detail to each of the recommendations. The Government acknowledge the reports of each of the Committees and thank the Committee members and witnesses for their contributions.

The East Midlands Regional Committee report—Does the East Midlands get a fair share of funding.

This was a cross-cutting report and key themes were:

Review departmental funding formulae, especially health and police.

Review transport funding and push for rail electrification.

Review timeliness of population statistics used in funding allocation methodology.

Encouragement of continued partnership working.

The report claimed that the East Midlands did not get its fair share of funding and the coalition is concerned about fairness. However, the Government believe that the most urgent issue facing the country is tackling the budget deficit and therefore all Government funding will be closely scrutinised and public expenditure will reduce over the next five years. The announcements in the Budget on 22 June were an important part of that process; in addition, the Government have published their proposed approach to the Spending Review 2010. The spending review, due to conclude in the autumn, will set spending limits for every Government Department for the period 2011-12 to 2014-15. To ensure that resources are prioritised within tighter budgets, Departments will be asked to prioritise their main programmes against a tough set of criteria to ensure value for money in public spending. The Government are determined to take decisions in a way that is in line with their values of freedom, fairness and responsibility. Therefore the Government will:

Deliver its guarantee that health spending will increase in real terms in each year of the Parliament, and that 0.7% of GNI will be spent on overseas aid by 2013;

Limit, as far as possible, the impact of reductions in spending on the poorest and most vulnerable in society, and on those regions heavily dependent on the public sector;

Protect, as far as possible, the spending that generates high economic returns;

Make further savings to fund the priorities set out in their programme.

As part of the spending review process the Public Expenditure Committee will ensure the Government take the time to consider collectively the effect of different options on its agreed priorities, and on different groups of society. Over the summer, the Public Expenditure Committee will test and challenge Departments' plans, and ensure that they respond to external engagement.

The South East Regional Committee report—Housing in the South East.

The Government share the Committee's conclusion that housing is crucial to the well-being of the economy and population of south east England. They further believe that development is necessary if it is to help people meet their aspirations to own their homes. That is why the Government intend to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including for new homes and businesses.

The Government do not agree however that an appropriate level of development is best achieved through the use of Whitehall-imposed targets, a belief which underpins many of the report's conclusions and recommendations. That is why we are taking steps to abolish regional strategies and regional housing targets. The Government believe that, rather than their prescribing the number and location of homes or requiring reviews of the green belt where there is no local desire to do so, local people in villages, towns and cities should be able to develop their own vision for the places in which they live. It is committed to working with local people to achieve this by, for example, enhancing community involvement in drawing up local plans, allowing local authorities to benefit financially when they facilitate new housing and enabling community-owned local housing trusts.

The West Midlands Regional Committee report—Planning for the Future: Housing and Economic Development in the West Midlands.

Most of the Committee's recommendations relate to regional strategies and the Government consider that housing and planning decisions are best made at the local level. Consequently, it is returning decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils by abolishing regional strategies through the Decentralisation and Localism Bill announced in the Queen's Speech on 25 May 2010.

The Government have a vision for a simpler more efficient and transparent planning system which will support and enable the investment, economic growth and housing that the country needs to take us out of recession. A framework of incentives will ensure communities receive a share in the benefits of housing development and not just the costs.

Future public expenditure for housing will be considered in the spending review, but the Government will provide mechanisms to bring empty homes back into use and create new Local Housing Trusts that will make it simpler for communities to provide homes for local people. They also intend to explore and promote a range of measures to meet housing needs including the promotion of shared ownership schemes and helping social tenants and others to own their own home.

The Government encourage all local authorities to share best practice in developing innovative approaches to attracting new investment in housing. It also encourages all local authorities and sub-regional partnerships to engage with their partners, residents, and other interested parties when making decisions about future plans and investment.

The West Midlands Regional Committee report—Making the Voice of the West Midlands heard: the Work of the Committee, and the future for the Region.

The Government have confirmed that they do not intend to re-establish Regional Committees. The Committee considered regional governance structures and further consideration of these issues will take place through the fundamental review of the role of Government, which will be completed as part of the spending review.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband Industry Day

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): On 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 5-6WS, I set out a number of actions the Government are taking to promote rapid roll-out of superfast broadband. As announced on 8 June, I am today publishing a discussion paper setting out our thinking on broadband providers gaining access to other utilities' infrastructure and inviting views on the most effective ways to achieve it. This coincides with an Industry Day being organised today by Broadband Delivery UK.

At the Industry Day, Broadband Delivery UK is providing further details of the Government's approach to delivery of the commitment to make a service level of 2Mbps available to those parts of the country still without a basic level of access and the approach to the selection of the locations for the three rural market testing projects that will bring superfast broadband to rural areas.

A copy of the discussion paper will be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Draft Energy National Policy Statements (Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): Today, I am announcing that the Government will be launching a re-consultation in the autumn on the draft Energy National Policy Statements following the consultation undertaken by the previous Administration earlier this year, and in particular due to changes which have been made to the Appraisal of Sustainability for the Overarching Energy National Policy Statement. The revised statements will give investors the certainty they need to bring forward proposals to maintain security of supply and ensure progress towards decarbonisation and plans for the first new nuclear power station to begin generating electricity by 2018 remain on course. We intend to present the finalised statements to Parliament for ratification next spring. A detailed implementation plan for planning reform on major infrastructure—including transitional arrangements and a revised timetable—will be published later in the summer.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Richard Benyon): The 2009-10 Annual Report and Accounts for the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science was laid before Parliament today.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

European Union: Explanatory Memoranda
9 June 2010 - 9 July 2010

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): Further to my written ministerial statement of 21 June, *Official Report*, columns 4-5WS. In the interest of the House and on behalf of Government I am depositing in the Library a full list of explanatory memoranda submitted by the Government from 9 June to 9 July. The House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee has yet to be established and has not met during this period. Meetings of the Lords Select Committee on the European Union commenced on 29 June 2010.

I would invite Members to examine this list and to raise any questions of policy in the usual way or via correspondence. It is vital that the House have a chance to scrutinise the work of Government and to consider policy. This is particularly true of our EU business.

HEALTH

Overseas Doctors (Out-of-hours Services)

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I have today laid before Parliament the Government's response to the House of Commons Health Committee's report "The use of overseas doctors in providing out-of-hours services: Fifth Report of Session 2009-10" which was published on 8 April 2010.

This Government are committed to ensuring that foreign healthcare professionals are not allowed to work in the national health service unless they have proven their competence and language skills, and we are working with the General Medical Council and others to explore a number of options to put a stop to foreign doctors slipping through the net.

In particular, we plan to explore how the proposed NHS Commissioning Board could oversee a more effective system for undertaking checks on language knowledge of primary care practitioners to address the historic lack of consistency in the application of checks by primary care trusts.

The Government also share the concerns raised by the Committee that since 2004 there have been serious failures in out-of-hours services, both on the part of the Government of the day to secure good value for money from the 2004 reforms and on the part of some primary care trusts to monitor the quality of out-of-hours services effectively since then. This situation has been compounded by a lack of clarity on responsibility between commissioners and providers and little or no integration of out-of-hours care with urgent care.

The Government are committed to providing universal access to high-quality urgent care services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including out-of-hours services. Our vision for urgent care will be to replace the ad hoc unco-ordinated system that has developed in England over the last 13 years.

We will help the public to better understand what urgent care services are available to them by improving information to support choice and accountability and introducing a new single telephone number to provide consistent clinical assessment at point of contact and direct patients to the right service, first time. The proposed new NHS Commissioning Board will also have a role in ensuring that those commissioning out-of-hours services ensure that contracts with out-of-hours providers detail rigorous standards in respect of the recruitment, induction and training that doctors should receive and that there is more effective contract monitoring.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): On 28 June 2010 the Home Secretary set out our proposals for an annual limit on the number of non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work, including an interim limit for the tier 1 (general) and tier 2 (general) categories of the points-based-system.

On the same date we laid a Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules (HC 59) to implement the interim limit for the tier 1 (general) category, the category for highly skilled workers who do not require a job offer before coming to the UK.

In the case of tier 2 (general), the category for sponsored skilled workers with a job offer, the interim limit will be applied by limiting the number of certificates of sponsorship which licensed tier 2 (general) sponsors are authorised to issue. We previously considered that this does not require changes to the immigration rules. However, subsequent legal decisions have made the position less clear. For the avoidance of doubt, I am laying changes today which make explicit provision for the Secretary of State to limit both the number of certificates of sponsorship that may be assigned to points based system sponsors overall during any particular period, and the number of certificates of sponsorship that may be assigned to individual sponsors.

As the Home Secretary set out in her statement on 28 June 2010, the total number of certificates of sponsorship that sponsors are authorised to issue under tier 2 (general) will be set at a level that achieves a reduction of 1,300 in the number of migrants admitted under this category in the equivalent period a year previously. The tier 2 interim limit will not apply to intra-company transferees, ministers of religion or to elite sportspersons, nor will it apply to dependants of tier 2 migrants.

The UK Border Agency's sponsor management team has already contacted sponsors in connection with the implementation of this interim limit, and will be writing to each sponsor individually to advise them of how the interim limit affects their allocation of certificates of sponsorship.

TRANSPORT

Crossrail: Annual Update

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): During the passage of the Crossrail Act through Parliament, a commitment was given to Parliament that a statement would be published at least every 12 months until the completion of the construction of Crossrail, setting out information about the project's funding and finances.

In line with this commitment, I am therefore publishing this statement within 12 months of the previous statement, which was published on 16 July 2009, and set out below the information required to fulfil the commitment to Parliament:

Total funding amounts provided to Crossrail Limited by the Department for Transport and TfL in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period (22 July 2008 to 29 May 2010)	£773,769,000
Expenditure incurred (including committed spend not yet paid out) by Crossrail Limited in relation to the construction of Crossrail in the period (31 May 2009 to 29 May 2010) (excluding recoverable VAT on land and property purchases)	£963,976,000
Total expenditure incurred (including committed spend not yet paid out) by Crossrail Limited in relation to the construction of Crossrail to the end of the period (22 July 2008 to 29 May 2010) (excluding recoverable VAT on land and property purchases)	£1,160,779,000
The amounts realised by the disposal of any land or property for the purposes of the construction of Crossrail by the Secretary of State, TfL or Crossrail Limited in the period covered by the statement	Nil

The numbers above are drawn from Crossrail Limited's accounts. The expenditure incurred amount includes both committed spend that has not yet been paid out and monies already paid out in the relevant periods.

Crossrail will support economic growth for London and the UK, and, as the coalition agreement made clear, is supported by Government. Recent work to update the business case indicates that the project will generate high value for money.

At this relatively early stage in the project, with several of the main construction contracts currently out to tender, Crossrail Limited continues to forecast a range of possible out-turn costs which indicate that the project can be delivered within the available funding. To ensure that these costs remain affordable and that every pound spent on Crossrail offers value for money, Crossrail Limited are engaged in an ongoing programme of value engineering, risk avoidance and mitigation and indirect cost reduction. I expect this work to report later in the year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund Reports (2009-10)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce the publication of the annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2009-10 and the Social Fund Commissioner's annual report 2009-10.

The Secretary of State's annual report on the Social Fund for 2009-10 was published today and has been laid before Parliament. Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

The report records that total gross expenditure in 2009-10, excluding winter fuel payments, was over £1.3 billion. This figure included over 263,000 non-repayable community care grants and almost 4 million interest-free loans together worth £850 million. Also, cold weather payments worth £290 million, funeral payments worth £47 million and sure start maternity grants worth £139 million were paid.

In addition an estimated 9.1 million households benefited from a winter fuel payment at an estimated cost of around £2.7 billion.

The Social Fund Commissioner's report has also been published today and copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Petitions

Tuesday 6 July 2010

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Transfer of Post Office Facilities (Viewpark, North Lanarkshire)

The Petition of residents of Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency and others,

Declares that the proposed transfer of Post Office facilities from Market Place, Viewpark to Old Edinburgh Road, Viewpark is unacceptable for social, economic and community reasons.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to prevent the proposed transfer of facilities.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Tom Clarke, Official Report,* 23 June 2010; Vol. 512, c. 399.]

[P000838]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

The Government have been clear in "The Coalition: our programme for government" that we will ensure that post offices are allowed to offer a wide range of services in order to sustain the network, and we will look at the case for developing new sources of revenue, such as the creation of a Post Office Bank.

Since 2001, when the Royal Mail (which includes Post Office Ltd) was set up as a public limited company with the Government as its only shareholder, Government have adopted an arm's-length relationship with the company so that it has the commercial freedom to run its business operations without interference from the shareholder. The precise location of post office branches is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd.

Post Office Ltd has advised that the Burnhead branch has been operated by a temporary agent following the resignation of the previous sub-postmaster. Post Office Ltd has now appointed a permanent agent to enable post office services to continue in the area on a longer-term basis, following a local public consultation. Post office services will be incorporated into the local convenience store in Uddingston, about half a mile from the current branch.

Facilities at the new location will include extended opening hours, a new purpose-built serving counter and parking facilities adjacent to the premises with two disabled spaces.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

St George's Day (Public Holiday)

The Petition of residents of the Erewash constituency and others,

Declares that England is one of very few countries in the world that does not have a public holiday to celebrate its national day; notes that St Patrick's Day is bank holiday in Northern Ireland, and that St Andrew's Day is a voluntary public holiday in Scotland; and further declares that everyone who is part of England should be able to celebrate its traditions, its history, its heritage and the English way of life with a public holiday on St George's Day.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward proposals to make St George's Day a public holiday in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jessica Lee, Official Report,* 23 June 2010; Vol. 512, c. 400.]

[P000839]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

We thank our hon. Friend for her Petition asking the Government to bring forward proposals to make St George's Day a bank holiday in England.

Public Holidays through the EU and across the UK reflect differing histories, cultures and traditions. The suggestion of a bank holiday in England to celebrate St George's Day on 23 April is one that has been made on a number of occasions in recent years. However, there have also been other suggestions in this area, for instance a proposal for a new "British Day" after Remembrance Sunday to celebrate the contribution of the Armed Forces.

All such proposals must, however, be seen in the context of the practical implications of the introduction of an additional bank holiday, in particular the significant costs it would entail for employers. The Government therefore have no current plans to change the current pattern of bank holidays which is well established and accepted, but are grateful to her for taking the time to submit her views.

Petition

Wednesday 7 July 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 6 July but not read on the Floor

Intensive Care (West Sussex)

The Petition of Mrs J Puttick and residents of the Bognor Regis and Littlehampton constituency and others,

Declares that the Petitioners believe that care received by Mr Ken Puttick at Worthing Hospital, West Sussex, was appalling and inadequate; further declares that consultants were not available at weekends, leading to delays to necessary medical procedures; further declares that the number of intensive care beds available was insufficient to meet the needs of the patients and to allow the necessary time for rehabilitation; and further declares that the training given to nurses caring for patients was inadequate.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to take steps to increase the number of intensive care beds available; to ensure that care for patients is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week; and to improve the training offered to nurses who care for multiple organ failure patients who have been transferred from intensive care units.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000843]

Petitions

Thursday 8 July 2010

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum Screening (Croydon)

The Petition of the people of Croydon,

Declares that the decision to make Croydon's Asylum Screening Unit the only such in-land unit could result in an additional 3,650 asylum seekers coming to Croydon each year, and that this will take a financial toll on local services.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring in a Bill to ensure that the costs of implementing and running this policy are met from central funds.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 30 March 2010; Vol. 508, c. 788 .]

[P000807]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

On 14 October 2009, the Asylum Screening Unit (ASU) in Croydon became the national site for anyone wishing to make an in-country application for asylum in the United Kingdom. The UK Border Agency planned for this change and took steps to lessen the initial impact on Croydon including arranging for unaccompanied children presenting at Liverpool to continue to be screened there and be the responsibility of Liverpool City Council until April 2010. Unaccompanied children can still be screened outside of Croydon as vulnerable groups can be dealt with in the regions under UKBA policy.

Since 14 October, the UK Border Agency has continued to monitor the number of people submitting an initial asylum application in Croydon to ensure that the levels remain consistent with those anticipated and to ensure that there has been no adverse impact on the area and local services. In fact, asylum intake remains low and there has been no sustained increase in the number of adult or unaccompanied asylum seeking children wishing to make an asylum application in Croydon. The average monthly intake remains steady and Croydon ASU is functioning well in its new role.

An appointment system has been introduced to ensure that the flow of people into the ASU, and so into Croydon itself, is managed effectively and with a minimum of disruption for applicant and resident alike. Most importantly, the existing policy of dispersal remains a key part of the process. This means that all those who make their application in Croydon, and who do not already have an address in the UK, are dispersed away from Croydon to areas of the UK where there is accommodation for them.

The Government do not, therefore, consider it necessary to introduce funding changes based on Croydon becoming the single site screening centre. The UK Border Agency will, of course, continue to monitor the number of initial asylum applications being made at the ASU in Croydon.

Student Visas

The Petition of residents of Cambridge (English UK & EFL Organisations),

Declares that the current review of the Tier 4 points based system for Student Visas may result in many fewer legitimate students travelling to the UK to learn English. Further declares that this will lead to the closure of many language schools and reduce the number of foreign students that go into higher education in the United Kingdom.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government whilst recognising the importance of Immigration Control to proceed in a way that does not disadvantage English language schools

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Official Report,* 8 April 2010; Vol. 508, c. 48P.]

[P000827]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

As set out in "The Coalition: our programme for government", we will introduce new measures to minimise abuse of the immigration system, including via student routes. This Government are committed to attracting the brightest and the best students to the United Kingdom and we are determined to encourage legitimate students to come to here to study, whether under Tier 4, the student tier of the Points Based System (PBS), or via the student visitor category.

We cannot ignore the fact the English language industry contributes millions of pounds to Britain's economy every year, but nor can we ignore the risk posed by those economic migrants who seek to exploit Tier 4.

We are, however, making it a priority to strengthen the student tier of the PBS to ensure that it is not open to abuse and we will make sure that any future changes address the risk of abuse in a balanced and targeted manner.

Petition

Tuesday 13 July 2010

OBSERVATIONS

EDUCATION

Badman Report (Sunderland North)

The Petition of persons resident in the Sunderland North parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented to the House on 8 April 2010, Official Report,* Vol. 508, c. 47P.*]*

[P000828]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Education:

You have petitioned that proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home be withdrawn and instead, that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities be properly implemented.

The proposals to legislate for a registration and monitoring scheme for home educating families were removed from the Children, Schools and Families Bill prior to the General Election. We have not yet been able to consider in detail our approach to home education and whether or not any changes to the existing arrangements are required.

The previous Government issued non-statutory guidelines for local authorities in November 2007. These guidelines set out the current legislative position and the roles and responsibilities of local authorities and parents in relation to home educated children and are available at: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/publications/elective/

Petition

Wednesday 14 July 2010

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY

Equitable Life (Portsmouth North)

The Petition of residents of the constituency of Portsmouth North in the Hampshire region of the U.K. regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's reports on Equitable Life,

Declares that the Petitioners either are or they represent or support members, former members or personal representatives of deceased members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society who have suffered maladministration leading to injustice, as found by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in her report upon Equitable Life, ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 16 July 2008 and bearing reference number HC 815; and further declares that the Petitioners or those whom they represent or support have suffered regulatory failure on the part of the public bodies responsible from the year 1992 onwards, but have not received compensation for the resulting losses and outrage.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to uphold the constitutional standing of the Parliamentary Ombudsman by complying in full with the findings and recommendations of her Report upon Equitable Life.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Penny Mordaunt, Official Report, 9 June 2010; Vol. 511, c. 434.]*

[P000833]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Government have pledged to implement the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman's recommendation to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policyholders, through an independent payment scheme, for their relative loss as a consequence of regulatory failure. The Government will, as the Ombudsman noted it was appropriate to do, consider the potential impact on the public purse of any scheme.

As a sign of the commitment to that pledge, the Government will introduce a Bill in the first session of Parliament that will enable HM Treasury to make payments.

One of the Government's main aims is to ensure that the approach to resolving this issue is thorough, transparent and fair while keeping in mind the need to act quickly. In the light of this, the Government feel that the best approach is to allow Sir John Chadwick to continue under his current Terms of Reference.

Sir John has been working for a considerable amount of time under his current Terms of Reference and is close to the completion of his work. He is due to submit his final report by mid-July. Allowing him to complete his work in its current form will allow the Government to focus on the next steps in the process; in particular delivering on the Government's pledge of an independently designed payment scheme. Reopening Sir John's work at this stage would lead to severe delays in making payments to policyholders. That scenario would not be beneficial for anybody.

One of the key elements of the Ombudsman's recommendations was that any scheme should be independent of Government. In the light of this, the Government plan to establish an Independent Commission to decide on the allocation of payments and scheme design issues.

Sir John's work, which is based on the findings of the Ombudsman, is one of the building blocks, not the foundation of the Government's approach.

For almost a decade, policyholders have fought for a just resolution in relation to losses suffered as a result of regulatory failure. The Government are confident that a resolution can be reached using the approach that we have outlined.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 5 July 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Access

Mr Anderson: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, when the security entrance between the Victoria Embankment and Norman Shaw buildings will be reopened. [6472]

Sir Stuart Bell: Security audits in 2004 and 2009 both recommended that the Embankment entrance by the Norman Shaw South building should be closed. This recommendation was endorsed by Members of both Houses on the Joint Committee on Security (JCOS). A significant amount of upgrade work would be needed to make the entrance safe—both for the occupants of the adjacent Norman Shaw buildings and for the security staff on duty at the post. The entrance was therefore closed in May 2010.

Departmental Security

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, how much the House of Commons Commission has *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* spent on security for the Palace of Westminster since April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [5515]

Sir Stuart Bell: The 2009-10 budget for security was set out in the House of Commons Corporate Business Plan 2009-10 at £22.786 million. The outturn against this budget was £21.279 million. The difference between budget and outturn was, in the main, due to effective contract management and the efficient management of the security personnel.

The House of Commons Corporate Business Plan 2010-11 provides for a security budget of £22.8 million. For the first two months of this financial year, the actual spend against this budget was £3.753 million, close to the planned rate of spending.

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, what access is granted to staff of Government departments who hold parliamentary passes to the *(a)* Palace of Westminster and *(b)* House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate; and if he will make a statement. [5642]

Sir Stuart Bell: Government department passes allow access to the Palace of Westminster. Within the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate, they also allow access to Portcullis House, Canon Row, 2 The Abbey Garden, 1 Parliament Street, Norman Shaw North, Norman Shaw South and 7 Millbank.

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, under what circumstances a Palace of Westminster pass may be *(a)* suspended and *(b)* revoked; and if he will make a statement. [5643]

Sir Stuart Bell: The parliamentary photo-identity pass may be revoked or suspended by the Serjeant at Arms (House of Commons) or Black Rod (House of Lords):

(a) at the request of the sponsor of the pass;

(b) during a disciplinary investigation;

(c) due to the failure of the individual to attain or retain the required security clearance.

Parliamentary Estate

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, on what date each property on the Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate was opened for occupation by Departments of the House; and what the estimated monetary value is of each such property. [5450]

Sir Stuart Bell: The following table lists the office buildings occupied by Departments of the House of Commons, a number of which are also used for the accommodation of Members. They comprise a combination of freehold and leasehold properties. Net Book Values (NBV) are held for freehold buildings only.

Premises	*Tenure*	*Approximate date of occupation*	*Net book value at March 2010 (£ million)*
Palace of Westminster	Effective freehold	1847	519
Portcullis House	Freehold	2001	211
1 Parliament Street	Freehold	1991	18.5
1 Derby Gate	Freehold	1991	9.5
1 Canon Row	Freehold	1989	6
Norman Shaw South	Freehold	1979	12
Norman Shaw North	Freehold	1975	17
2 The Abbey Garden	Leasehold	1961	[1]—
4 Millbank	Leasehold	2006	[1]—
7 Millbank	Leasehold	1993	[1]—

[1] Not known.

The House has a leasehold for 14 Tothill Street, which is currently partly occupied by the House of Lords. It is due to be fully occupied in the autumn. The House has recently acquired the freehold of 53 Parliament Street, which is at present unoccupied.

Parliamentary Network

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, if the House of Commons Commission will consider the merits of providing access to BBC and ITV regional television news services via the Parliamentary network. [4754]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Parliamentary ICT network is not configured to stream TV services. The annunciators do carry national and international television and radio but the number of channels is limited, and they have all been allocated as determined by the Administration Committee. The House Service is in the process of developing a strategy for upgrading our network services, and will take account of the desirability of providing regional TV news services as they do so.

Publications: Internet

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, by what time on each sitting day the text of *(a)* the previous day's *Official Report*, *(b)* the Summary Agenda and Order of Business, *(c)* Future Business, *(d)* the previous day's Votes and Proceedings, *(e)* Early Day Motions and *(f)* the Questions Book is scheduled for publication on the parliamentary (i) intranet and (ii) external website; on what occasions in the last three months each has been late; and if he will make a statement. [5523]

Sir Stuart Bell: Target upload times are the same for intranet and internet versions of parliamentary publications. Target upload times are as follows:

Publication	*Target upload times*
Official Report:	
Daily Part	8 a.m.
Public Bill Committees	12.30 a.m.
Chamber and Westminster Hall (Today in the Commons)	Three to four hours after delivery of speeches in the Chamber or Westminster Hall, reducing to two to three hours on the rising of the House
Summary Agenda/Order of Business	7.30 a.m.
Future Business	7.30 a.m.
Votes and Proceedings	8.30 a.m.
Early Day Motions	Between 7.30 and 8 a.m.
Question Books Parts 1 and 2	9.30 a.m.

In the period April to June 2010, all items were uploaded at the times required by the House. The Vote bundle for Tuesday 1 June was published online at approximately 12.30 pm on Friday 28 May (a non-sitting Friday).

Service levels are being revised and uploading times brought forward; from 12 July 2010 the Order Paper will be uploaded as soon as possible after the necessary processing has taken place. This will mean that in most cases the Order Paper for the next day will be available from soon after midnight.

In addition to the publications listed, frequent updates are made to other parliamentary intranet and internet pages. These include announcements of ministerial statements, forthcoming business, Adjournment debates, Select Committee evidence sessions and General Committees.

Standing Committees: Internet

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission, with reference to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 747-8W, on Standing Committees: internet, what progress has been made on placing on the Parliament website the transcripts of Standing Committee debates held prior to 1997; and if he will make a statement. [5522]

Sir Stuart Bell: The aim of placing on the Parliament website the digitised transcripts of Standing Committee debates held prior to 1997 by January 2010 was not met because of a lack of the resources necessary to complete this work. This work will be completed as soon as the necessary resources can be made available.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Internet

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the URL is of each website managed by (a) his Department and (b) each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [2372]

Mr Paterson: The information requested is as follows:

(a)

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO)

www.nio.gov.uk

The Bloody Sunday Inquiry

www.bloody-sunday-inquiry.org

Consultative Group on the Past

www.cgpni.org

(b)

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

www.nihrc.org/

The Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland

www.nicscommissioners.org/

The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland is an Advisory NDPB. Its website is:

http://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/

TRANSPORT

A5: Lighting

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse was of the replacement of the streetlights on the A5 between junction 9 of the M1 and Flamstead. [4378]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 28 June 2010]*: The section of A5 between M1 junction 9 and Flamstead, formed part of the A5 Beech Road Dunstable to M1 junction 9 Lighting Replacement Scheme. The scheme included the replacement of existing street lighting, installation of safety barriers, kerbing, footways, fencing, earthworks, road markings and renewal of some traffic signs. The overall cost of the whole scheme when final accounts are agreed will be approximately £2,440,000.

The Highways Agency does not have a breakdown of costs of specific sections of the A5 included in the scheme, but it estimates that the cost of replacing the street lighting and associated works on the section between M1 junction 9 and Flamstead was around £810,000.

Apperley Bridge Railway Station

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on plans for development at Apperley Bridge Railway Station since planning permission was granted. [6069]

Mrs Villiers: The Government's key priority at present is to tackle the budget deficit. The Department for Transport will consider the funding for local authority and Passenger Transport Executive major transport schemes as part of the Government's spending review. Until then, the Department is not in a position to give any commitments on projects such as a new railway station at Apperley Bridge.

Association of Chief Police Officers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on his meeting with the Association of Chief Police Officers last week. [6242]

Mr Philip Hammond: I did not meet with the Association of Chief Police Officers last week. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) met with them on 16 June to discuss road safety issues.

Biofuels

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the global environmental impact of biofuels sourced from palm oil and jatropha oil. [3710]

Norman Baker: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) requires biofuel suppliers to report to the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) both the greenhouse gas emissions reductions provided by, and the sustainability of, the biofuels they supply.

Jatropha is not currently used in the UK and is not expected to be widely used in the future, as there are significant barriers towards its sustainable commercialisation.

Around 10% of UK biofuel reported under the RTFO last year came from palm oil. The RFA's 2008-09 report, "Year One of the RTFO", showed that only around 5% of the palm biodiesel supplied had sustainability certification but assessed that there was potential to increase this to 100% at small additional cost to suppliers.

As there has been much controversy surrounding the use of palm oil, both the RFA and the Department for Transport have carried out further assessments. The RFA published a short case study of the impacts of Malaysian palm oil in its 2008-09 report to Parliament. This study looked at issues such as carbon emissions and social impacts. The Department for Transport is currently reviewing the indirect sustainability impacts of a number of feedstocks, including palm oil. The results of this study will be published shortly.

Bus Services: Luton

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cancellation fee for the Luton Dunstable busway project was agreed with his Department. [5876]

Norman Baker: No cancellation fee for the Luton Dunstable busway project was agreed with the Department.

Carbon Emissions: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to assist the West Midlands to move towards low-carbon forms of transport. [5741]

Norman Baker: The Government's first priority is tackling the country's unsustainable level of debt. As part of the comprehensive spending review, the Department for Transport is considering how best to ensure that the transport sector, in the west midlands and elsewhere, contributes both to future economic growth and to the achievement of the Government's climate change targets. The Government are committed to supporting sustainable travel initiatives, and to reforming the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise, so that the benefits of low-carbon proposals are fully recognised.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of proposed reductions in numbers of non-frontline staff in his Department and its agencies. [497]

Mr Philip Hammond: Possible reductions in numbers of non-frontline staff in this Department and the potential resulting costs will be considered, alongside all other departmental functions, in the context of the review of all Government spending now under way.

Like any good employer, the Department seeks to manage downsizing through natural wastage, redeployment and voluntary departures.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* front line and *(b)* other staff were employed by (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type at each of those bodies. [542]

Mr Philip Hammond: Typically, front-line services in the Department for Transport are provided by the Department's Executive agencies. The 2008-09 Annual Report and Resource Accounts (tables A5 and A6 in Appendix A, pages 227-28, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House) identify 16,613 full-time equivalents (FTEs) working in the Department's Executive agencies and 1,932 FTE's working within the central Department.

As stipulated in the 2010 Spending Review Departmental Guidance, costings will come with greater clarity where our Executive agencies are concerned:

> "In order to control the administration costs of ALB's (Arm's Length Bodies) the Treasury is proposing to bring the administration costs of ALB's within the overall administration budget regime. To do this, departments will need to determine 10/11 administration spending within each of their ALBs."

Departmental Pay

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 68W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3245]

Mr Philip Hammond: The salary range of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister is shown in the following table:

Minister	*Staff grades*	*Salary range*
Secretary of State—Philip Hammond	Senior civil servant	£58,200 to £117,750
	Grade 7	£46,446 to £56,400
	Higher executive officer (fast stream)	£26,465 to £36,435
	Executive officer	£25,533 to £27,992
Minister of State—Theresa Villiers	Grade 7	£46,446 to £56,400
	Higher executive officer (fast stream)	£26,465 to £36,435
	Executive officer	£25,533 to £27,992
	Administrative officer	£22,295 to £23,355
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Norman Baker	Higher executive officer	£30,287 to £34,710
	Executive officer	£25,533 to £27,992
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Mike Penning	Higher executive officer (FS)	£26,465 to £36,435
	Executive officer	£25,533 to £27,992

Departmental Reviews

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reviews he has commissioned since taking up his post. [4437]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Coalition Agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews it will be undertaking in my Department in due course.

Driving Offences

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has considered the merits of introducing legislation to make compulsory the display of *(a)* MOT and *(b)* insurance information on vehicle windscreens. [4132]

Mike Penning: I do not consider that such legislation is necessary. The police have access to the MOT and insured vehicle databases and often use them when carrying out roadside enforcement.

We also intend to introduce regulations later this year to strengthen measures against uninsured driving. From early 2011, DVLA will make frequent comparisons of their taxed vehicles database with the Motor Insurers Bureau's database of insured vehicles. Enforcement action will be taken against keepers of vehicles that are on the road without insurance.

Driving Under Influence

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to publish its response to the North Committee report on road safety and the drink-driving limit. [5059]

Mike Penning: The report of Sir Peter North's review of drink and drug-driving legislation covers a wide range of issues, including the legal alcohol limit for drivers, and contains 51 detailed recommendations. The Department for Transport is giving careful consideration to its conclusions in conjunction with colleagues in other Departments. We will respond to the report in due course.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change the maximum blood alcohol limit for driving. [3912]

Mike Penning: Sir Peter North has recently published the report of his review of drink and drug-driving legislation commissioned by the previous Government. His report covers a wide range of issues, including the legal alcohol limit for drivers, and contains 51 detailed recommendations. The Department for Transport is giving careful consideration to its conclusions in conjunction with colleagues in other Departments and we will respond to Sir Peter's recommendations in due course.

Driving: Licensing

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evaluation has been made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995; how many new drivers have had their licences revoked under the provisions of the Act in each year since the Act came into effect; what information his Department holds on the number of such new drivers who have continued to drive despite revocation of their licence; and if he will make a statement. [4298]

Mike Penning: The most recent evaluation of the effectiveness of the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995 was included in the Road Safety Compliance Consultation document published in November 2008, a copy of which is in the Libraries of the House.

The numbers of driving licence revocations under the 1995 Act from June 1997 to May 2009 are shown in the table. More recent figures are not yet available.

Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995—Total licence revocations 1 June 1997 to 31 May 2009

	Total
1 June 1997 to 31 May 1998	1,403
1 June 1998 to 31 May 1999	9,062
1 June 1999 to 31 May 2000	14,431
1 June 2000 to 31 May 2001	13,687
1 June 2001 to 31 May 2002	12,996
1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003	12,932

Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995—Total licence revocations 1 June 1997 to 31 May 2009

	Total
1 June 2003 to 31 May 2004	14,986
1 June 2004 to 31 May 2005	15,961
1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006	17,208
1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007	19,850
1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008	21,216
1 June 2008 to 31 May 2009	21,143
Total	174,875

Figures are not available in respect of drivers who have continued to drive in spite of having had their licence revoked under the 1995 Act.

We are considering whether further measures are needed in relation to newly qualified drivers.

Electric Vehicles

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) undertaken on the development of battery technology for electric-powered vehicles. [5072]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has access to a wide range of research on battery technology through well established links with industrial, academic and international organisations and experts in this field.

Where necessary, the Department has commissioned specific research to supplement this. This has included a 2010 report by Oakdene Hollins[1] into rare earth supply and alternatives and a 2008 report by Cenex and Arup[1] on the potential market for electric vehicles which included an analysis of battery technology.

[1] Website addresses at:

http://www.oakdenehollins.co.uk/pdf/dft-01_205_issue2.pdf

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file48653.pdf

Furthermore, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills launched a £3 million competition on 24 June targeted at, among other priorities, advanced batteries.

Invalid Vehicles

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to regulate further the usage of mobility scooters; and if he will make a statement. [3598]

Norman Baker: On 3 March 2010 the Department for Transport published a consultation on proposed changes to the laws governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. The consultation covered issues such as compulsory insurance, training and assessment to use mobility vehicles, a more comprehensive registration scheme and the design and safety standards for mobility vehicles. The consultation is now closed and the responses are being analysed. It is available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/2010-10/

We will study the results of the consultation and consider how they may inform future policy options.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated on injuries caused to pedestrians by mobility scooters in the last five years. [3599]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport published research in 2006 into the use of Class 2 and Class 3 mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs which can be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/transportforyou/access/tipws/pwps/

The research did not suggest that mobility vehicles have a significant impact on road safety.

We are however aware that the number of mobility vehicles is on the increase. The Department has initiated a survey to help assess the number of mobility vehicles users and the extent to which their use may have injured people and I will be considering its conclusions at the appropriate time.

Local Government Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which major local authority projects within his Department's responsibility funding has been suspended until the completion of the Government's review of public expenditure. [4049]

Norman Baker: We have not suspended funding for any local authority major transport scheme currently under construction and in receipt of grant. We have suspended, until the completion of the spending review, the approvals process for all schemes with Conditional Approval and Programme Entry, and those for which bids for approval have been submitted.

London-Birmingham Railway Line

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to consult residents in the West Midlands on the proposed high speed rail link between London and Birmingham. [4286]

Mr Philip Hammond: *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* I have asked HS2 Ltd to be in a position to consult on the route between London and the West Midlands early in the New Year. The Government will also consult on its overall strategy for high speed rail. Further consultation will be undertaken as part of the process of seeking powers.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment is of the environmental effects in the West Midlands of the proposed high speed rail link between London and Birmingham; and when an environmental impact assessment will be published. [4287]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* HS2 Ltd published an Appraisal of Sustainability: Non Technical Summary, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/appraisalofsustainability/

for its recommended route alongside its report in March 2010. It is currently examining possible revisions to its route, notably to incorporate a link to Heathrow, and will publish a full appraisal of sustainability as part of the proposed consultation on the line of route.

M1: Speed Limits

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether fixed speed cameras are still to be installed on the M1 between junctions 25 and 28. [4069]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The scheme to widen the M1 between junctions 25 to 28 includes technology to allow the use of mandatory variable speed limits.

Use of these limits helps to manage traffic flows and provide more reliable journeys for motorists at times when the road is particularly busy. The technology which supports these limits includes:

loops in the road to monitor traffic speeds and provide alerts when congestion is starting to occur,

CCTV cameras to allow the traffic conditions and any incidents to be monitored,

electronic variable speed limit signs, and

speed enforcement cameras to ensure that motorists do not exceed the variable limits in force.

The cameras are not, therefore, standalone installations on roads with permanent speed limits. They are part of an overall package of technology measures to support variable speed limits, improving journey reliability as well as safety. In these limited circumstances I am content for speed cameras to be used as part of the overall solution.

Railway Stations

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has plans for improvements at Warrington Bank Quay railway station; [4038]

(2) whether he has plans for improvements at Preston railway station; [4039]

(3) whether he has plans for improvements at Wigan North Western railway station. [4040]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

We will grant longer franchises in order to give train operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

Network Rail is responsible for delivering the majority of investment in rail infrastructure across the UK rail network, and does so in accordance with the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) developed by the Department for Transport, which formed the basis on which Network Rail's income was set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for the current regulatory control period (CP4) in 2008.

The Government's priority is reducing the deficit. As part of the £683 million savings in departmental spending in 2010-11, Network Rail is reducing the amount that had been provisionally allocated to improving 10 stations by £50 million. Concerns around the poor state of these stations during the tenure of the previous Government had been highlighted in the Station Champions' 'Better Rail Stations' report.

It is understood that Network Rail is continuing to work with local partners to assess what improvements can be delivered at Warrington Bank Quay, Preston and Wigan North Western Stations. In the longer term, improvements to these stations may also form part of the new West Coast franchise which is due to be renewed in 2012.

The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for specific detail on Network Rail's plans for Warrington Bank Quay, Preston and Wigan North Western stations:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
King's Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG.

Railway Stations: Barking

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans for improvements at Barking railway station. [4036]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

We will grant longer franchises in order to give operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

Network Rail is responsible for delivering the majority of investment in rail infrastructure across the UK rail network, and does so in accordance with the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) developed by the Department for Transport, which formed the basis on which Network Rail's income was set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for the current regulatory control period (CP4) in 2008.

The Government's priority is reducing the deficit. As part of the £683 million savings in departmental spending in 2010-11, Network Rail is reducing the amount that had been provisionally allocated to improving ten stations by £50 million. Concerns around the poor state of these stations during the tenure of the previous Government had been highlighted in the Station Champions' "Better Rail Stations" report.

It is understood that Network Rail is continuing to work with local partners to assess what improvements can be delivered at Barking station. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for specific detail on Network Rail's plans for Barking station:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
King's Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG.

Railway Stations: Birmingham

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to undertake major structural upgrades to Birmingham New Street railway station. [4044]

Mrs Villiers: As announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget, the Government are committed to the redevelopment of Birmingham New Street station. Construction has now commenced and the project is expected to be completed by 2015.

Railway Stations: Liverpool

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans for improvements at Liverpool Central railway station. [4041]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

We will grant longer franchises in order to give train operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

Network Rail is responsible for delivering the majority of investment in rail infrastructure across the UK rail network, and does so in accordance with the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) developed by the Department for Transport, which formed the basis on which Network Rail's income was set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for the current regulatory control period (CP4) in 2008.

The Government's priority is reducing the deficit. As part of the £683 million savings in departmental spending in 2010-11, Network Rail is reducing the amount that had been provisionally allocated to improving 10 stations by £50 million. Concerns around the poor state of these stations during the tenure of the previous Government had been highlighted in the Station Champions' 'Better Rail Stations' report.

It is understood that Network Rail is continuing to work with local partners to assess what improvements can be delivered at Liverpool Central station. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for specific detail on Network Rail's plans for Liverpool Central station:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
King's Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG.

Railway Stations: Luton

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans for improvements at Luton railway station. [4037]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

We will grant longer franchises in order to give operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

Network Rail is responsible for delivering the majority of investment in rail infrastructure across the UK rail network, and does so in accordance with the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) developed by the Department for Transport, which formed the basis on which Network Rail's income was set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for the current regulatory control period (CP4) in 2008.

The Government's priority is reducing the deficit. As part of the £683 million savings in departmental spending in 2010-11, Network Rail is reducing the amount that had been provisionally allocated to improving ten stations by £50 million. Concerns around the poor state of these stations during the tenure of the previous Government had been highlighted in the Station Champions' "Better Rail Stations" report.

It is understood that Network Rail is continuing to work with local partners to assess what improvements can be delivered at Luton station. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for specific detail on Network Rail's plans for Luton station:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
King's Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG.

Railway Stations: Reading

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to undertake a major structural upgrade at Reading railway station. [4045]

Mrs Villiers: Reading is a significant station on the Great Western route and an important junction on the nation's railway network. Network Rail is proceeding with a major scheme to provide additional platform capacity and remove the present "bottlenecks" which constrain growth in both freight and passenger business.

In order to ensure that this is delivered in the most efficient manner and at a cost which represents the best value for money, I have asked Network Rail to review all aspects of its plans for the scheme and to seek out the most cost-effective construction approach and report to me at the earliest opportunity.

Railway Stations: Repairs and Maintenance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans for improvements at Crewe railway station. [3916]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

We will grant longer franchises in order to give operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

Network Rail is responsible for delivering the majority of investment in rail infrastructure across the UK rail network, and does so in accordance with the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) developed by the Department for Transport, which formed the basis on which Network Rail's income was set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for the current regulatory control period (CP4) in 2008.

The Government's priority is reducing the deficit. As part of the £683 million savings in departmental spending in 2010-11, Network Rail is reducing the amount that had been provisionally allocated to improving 10 stations by £50 million. Concerns around the poor state of these stations during the tenure of the previous Government had been highlighted in the Station Champions' 'Better Rail Stations' report.

Network Rail will continue with roof improvement works at Crewe and remains committed to developing a longer term strategy for the station that better reflects the needs of its users, Crewe and the railway network. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for specific detail on Network Rail's plans for Crewe station:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
King's Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans for improvements at Manchester Victoria railway station. [3917]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

We will grant longer franchises in order to give operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

Network Rail is responsible for delivering the majority of investment in rail infrastructure across the UK rail network, and does so in accordance with the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) developed by the Department for Transport, which formed the basis on which Network Rail's income was set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for the current regulatory control period (CP4) in 2008.

The Government's priority is reducing the deficit. As part of the £683 million savings in Departmental spending in 2010-11, Network Rail is reducing the amount that had been provisionally allocated to improving 10 stations by £50 million. Concerns around the poor state of these stations during the tenure of the previous Government had been highlighted in the Station Champions' 'Better Rail Stations' report.

It is understood that Network Rail has already started upgrade work at Manchester Victoria and is striving to find a way to take forward improvement plans. The right hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for specific detail on Network Rail's plans for Manchester Victoria station:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
King's Place
90 York Way
London N1 9AG.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the Better Rail Stations programme; and if he will make a statement. [3918]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to making it easier for this investment to take place in future.

We will grant longer franchises in order to give operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

The 'Better Rail Stations' report highlighted the concerns about the state of a number of stations during the tenure of the previous Government. It made a number of recommendations which will be considered as part of our programme for reform of the railways, though the need to address the deficit may have an impact on decisions.

The Government's current priority is reducing the deficit. As part of the £683 million savings in departmental spending in 2010-11, Network Rail is reducing the amount that had been provisionally allocated to improving 10 stations by £50 million.

Ministers will be considering the recommendations around consistent minimum facilities and standards in the coming months.

Railways

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of the future high speed rail project including a line linking Birmingham with the East Midlands and Sheffield; [4435]

(2) what assessment he has made of the proposals for a high speed rail network set out in the previous Government's White Paper of March 2010. [4436]

Mr Philip Hammond: The coalition programme for Government reiterates our commitment to a national high speed rail network.

I have asked HS2 Ltd to develop proposals for a connection to Heathrow and to HS1 for services to the Channel Tunnel, and to provide a high-level assessment of the comparative business cases of two network options for connecting London, the West Midlands, Manchester and Leeds. I expect to receive the results of this work in early July to inform my consideration of the Government's overall strategy and timetable for the establishment of a high speed rail network. Following this I expect to make a statement to Parliament.

Railways Stations: Standards

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the recommendations in the Better Rail Stations report on guaranteed minimum standards at railway stations. [4047]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

We will grant longer franchises in order to give train operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better stations. We are also considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

The 'Better Rail Stations' report highlighted the concerns about the state of a number of stations during the tenure of the previous Government. It made a number of recommendations which will be considered as part of our programme for reform of the railways, though the need to address the deficit may have an impact on decisions.

Railways: Construction

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects construction of phase one of the proposed north-south high speed rail network to commence. [4438]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell) on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 206W.

Road Traffic: Greater Manchester

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department has received on the use by heavy goods vehicles of the A628 Woodhead Pass in the last 10 years. [3701]

Mike Penning: According to the Highways Agency's correspondence recording system, there have been no representations received about the use of heavy goods vehicles of the A628 Woodhead Pass in the last two years, other than in relation to the public inquiry.

A search of records beyond two years could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

In January 2006 the Highways Agency published draft Orders for the A57/A628 Mottram, Hollingworth, Tintwistle Bypass and progressed the scheme to inquiry. The inquiry was formally closed in July 2009 when it was announced that the scheme would be withdrawn because the Regional Transport Board determined that the increased costs for the scheme could not be supported. During the life of the scheme, over five thousand representations were received by the agency. It is likely that a number of these representations included elements relating to HGV issues on the Woodhead Pass but the information is no longer readily available.

Roads: Construction

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on construction of new roads using private sector funding. [5061]

Mike Penning: There have been no such representations; however, I would welcome proposals from the private sector or local authority sponsors for provision of new road capacity via private funding.

Roadworks

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish a roadworks programme setting out the latest cost estimates and dates for the start and end of major works on motorways and trunk roads. [4981]

Mike Penning: As part of the spending review, we are reviewing the whole range of capital investment across Government. Once the spending review is complete, we will be able to determine the likely timing and costs of future road improvements.

Rolling Stock

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a recent estimate of the average age of the rolling stock of each rail franchise. [3915]

Mrs Villiers: Average age data are published by the Office of Rail Regulation on a quarterly basis and can be found on the following website:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/rolling-c6-misc-240610.pdf

Shipping: Piracy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold discussions with the International Maritime Organisation about measures to increase anti-piracy security for cruise ships. [5594]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport fully supports the important work that the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) undertakes in respect of counter-piracy. The IMO's Maritime Security Circulars together with the Department's Marine Guidance Note on measures to counter piracy armed robbery and other acts of violence against merchant shipping (MGN 298), and the industry's own Best Management Practices to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia (BMP) represent a sound body of advice that is developed and supported collectively by the IMO, government and industry bodies including the International and UK Chambers of Shipping. In particular the BMP has significantly reduced the risk of successful pirate hijack, especially in the critical Gulf of Aden trade artery.

The Department has regular discussions on counter piracy with the IMO and the shipping industry directly, including through the IMO's Maritime Security Committee and through the counter-piracy sub committee of the Department's National Maritime Security Committee. As a result of work in our counter-piracy sub committee we will soon be issuing an update of our MGN 298 that complements, and has more general applicability, than the geographically specific advice contained in the BMP. Finally, I can confirm that counter-piracy is on the agenda for the next meeting of the IMO's MSC, scheduled for December this year, at which my Department will play an active part.

South East Airports Task Force

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he expects the South East Airports Task Force to publish its findings; [4017]

(2) whether the terms of reference of the South East Airports Task Force will include *(a)* the travel needs of passengers, *(b)* the interests of airline and airport employees and *(c)* the current and future economic effects on local areas of the airports under review; and if he will make a statement. [4030]

Mrs Villiers: The terms of reference for the South East Airports Task Force will be agreed following the first meeting of the group. The primary focus of the task force will be on addressing operational matters that will help improve the passenger experience.

The Air Transport Users Council will specifically represent passenger interests and we will look to airport operators to engage with local communities over any emerging actions that may affect them.

We expect the task force to complete its work by summer 2011 and I am hopeful that it can identify some actions for early implementation.

Speed Limits

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has for use of variable speed limits on trunk roads and dual carriageways; [4979]

(2) whether he plans to extend the use of variable speed limits. [4980]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport acknowledges the potential benefits of variable speed limits in terms of achieving smooth traffic flows, easing congestion and improving road safety. We are currently considering the options for extension of the use of variable speeds limits on trunk roads, dual carriageways and other roads that may benefit from their use.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to introduce a 20 mph speed limit on all urban roads; and if he will make a statement. [5191]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport keeps all speed limits under review to ensure they remain appropriate. There are no current plans to change the 30 mph default speed limit. To do so would have significant resource implications and place additional burdens on local authorities. Local authorities already have the power to implement 20 mph limits and zones where they decide they are appropriate.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from what date he expects fixed-speed cameras to be in operation on the M1 in Hertfordshire. [3600]

Mike Penning: The M1 Junctions 6a-10 scheme will allow the use of mandatory variable speed limits to manage traffic flows.

Speed enforcement cameras to support compliance with the operation of the variable speed limits are expected to come into operation in November 2010.

Tolls

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy not to introduce tolls on existing roads or motorways in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* the period covered by the next Comprehensive Spending Review. [5064]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to my answers of 15 June to the hon. Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey), *Official Report*, column 379W.

Trade Unions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consult trade unions on departmental cost reduction plans. [5148]

Mr Philip Hammond: We are determined that this spending review process will be open, responsible and fair.

Various events will be organised over the summer for interested parties (including trade unions) to discuss and debate various aspects of public spending. Further detail of these events will be made available in due course. Trade unions will also have the opportunity to feed into the cross-Government online consultation. Departmental cost reduction plans will be a part of business as usual discussions between trade unions and my Department officials.

Transport: Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has allocated in area-based grants to transport safety partnerships in each year since 2007. [4186]

Mike Penning: Area-based grants are the resource, rather than the capital, side of the specific road safety grant.

The money is distributed to local highways authorities which then decide how much (if any) should be allocated to road safety partnerships.

Budgets were allocated as follows:

	£
2007-08	79,515,991
2008-09	78,764,749
2009-10	78,118,656
2010-11	77,327,152

The area-based grant for road safety was reduced to £56,842,152 as part of local government's contribution to the £6 billion of in-year savings in 2010-11. This grant was chosen for reduction because it was evenly spread across local authorities and thus provides equal incentive to local authorities to make efficiencies to compensate for the reduction in road safety grant. At the same time, a substantial tranche of local authority grant was de-ring-fenced, allowing local authorities greater flexibility in spending. The reduction in road safety grant is not intended to signal that local authorities are expected to reduce spending on road safety disproportionately.

Transport: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he plans to take to improve transport infrastructure in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry; [5737]

(2) what steps he plans to take to improve transport capacity in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [5739]

Norman Baker: The Government have made it clear that their most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record budget deficit, in order to restore confidence in the economy and support the recovery. The Department for Transport is playing a full part in the spending review which will be reporting in the autumn.

Only once the Government's spending review has been concluded will the Department for Transport be in a position to identify those major investments in infrastructure and capacity that can be supported.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the transport infrastructure in the West Midlands. [5738]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has received representations from a range of interested parties on the future of West Midlands transport infrastructure, including business groups, local and regional government and environmental groups. Once the Government's spending review has been concluded, the Department for Transport will be in a position to identify those major investments that can be supported.

WALES

Cabinet Committees

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Prime Minister on her appointments to Cabinet committees. [6209]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on a wide range of issues.

I am a member of the Ministerial Committee on Home Affairs which deals with issues relating to constitutional and political reform, and home affairs, including migration and welfare.

The number of Cabinet committees has been reduced to 11, less than half the number under the previous Government. The new committees meet on a regular basis.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from her Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5977]

Mr David Jones: In the last 12 months, one BlackBerry has been lost and one mobile telephone stolen. The replacement cost for the telephone is estimated to be £40. The BlackBerry has not been replaced.

Devolution

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what quasi-judicial functions *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* the Minister of State, *(c)* the Secretary of State and the Minister of State together will carry out in relation to a referendum on the question of whether to transfer primary law-making powers to the National Assembly for Wales. [5731]

Mrs Gillan: The proposed referendum Order is currently being drafted and will contain the rules for the conduct of the campaign and the referendum. The Secretary of State will be making decisions, for example on spending limits, the referendum date, the referendum question. When the draft Order is laid it will be subject to the affirmative procedure. Members in both Houses of Parliament will have the opportunity of scrutinising its provision when it is debated.

Hotels

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average cost to the public purse of the Secretary of State's overnight accommodation on visits to Cardiff has been in the latest period for which figures are available. [5423]

Mrs Gillan: Since my appointment, I have been required to stay overnight in Cardiff on official business on six occasions, at an average cost of around £93 per stay. That compares favourably with the average cost to the public purse of hotel accommodation in Wales for my predecessor.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Elections

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the safety of Afghan women who are parliamentary candidates and wish to visit their proposed constituencies to campaign; and if he will make a statement. [5076]

Alistair Burt: Parliamentary elections in September are a key step in the development of Afghan democracy. Alongside the rest of the international community, we have been working closely with the Afghan Government to ensure that the elections are credible and inclusive. The security situation remains challenging in parts of the country and this will impact on campaigning opportunities for many candidates.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is working to support the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Afghan National Security Forces in providing security for the elections. The UK, with the UN and other international donors, is in close contact with ISAF partners and the IEC to encourage them to work closely together to provide as secure an environment as possible for the elections and for candidates. Adequate security needs to be provided to enable candidates to campaign in as many areas as possible, particularly for female candidates who may face increased levels of intimidation and attacks as a result of standing for election. Work on this is already ongoing; the Afghan Ministry of Interior will provide two bodyguards for each female candidate, and a number of international and state-run programmes aimed at providing extra support for female candidates are being co-ordinated by the IEC's Gender Unit.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in planning for undertaking the Kandahar operation; what contribution the Afghan Government will make to the operation; and if he will make a statement. [5085]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* The Afghan Government and provincial governor of Kandahar are jointly leading plans to improve governance and development in Kandahar province. They have convened a number of shuras, including that of 13 June, attended by President Karzai, and the Hamkari conference on 21 June, involving line ministries from Kabul and the provincial governor to build broader political public support within Kandahar for this endeavour. The Afghan police and army are similarly playing a strong role, alongside the International Security Assistance Force, in planning to improve security in Kandahar city and its neighbouring districts. Both President Karzai and Governor Wesa have been overseeing these plans.

Chechnya: Human Rights

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the human rights situation in Chechnya; and if he will make a statement. [4997]

Mr Lidington: Human rights in Chechnya and the North Caucasus remain a serious concern. The recent comparative stability in Chechnya has been at the expense of freedom of expression and democratic space, with civil society and media freedom facing tough restrictions. Corruption is endemic, and 2009 saw the murders of human rights defenders and journalists. There is still a low success rate in investigating and prosecuting such crimes, perpetuating a climate of impunity. The 2009 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Human Rights Report, the June report of the All-Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group visit to Chechnya, and the June Council of Europe resolution on the North Caucasus highlight these concerns and call on the Russian Government to act.

The Government welcome President Medvedev's recognition of the need to address the underlying socio-economic conditions which can lead to extremism and on the need to strengthen the rule of law in Russia. Equally, it is important that the Russian Government recognise that security measures that do not respect international human rights law are counter-productive, and that putting an end to human rights violations is a vital element in the achievement of a long-term solution to the region's problems.

China: Foreign Relations

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for a long-term strategic dialogue between China and the UK. [4994]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have a well-developed set of bilateral structures with the Chinese Government, which we use to take forward areas of mutual strategic interest. These are among the most comprehensive bilateral structures any western country has with China.

Planning for our high-level bilateral dialogues this year is well-advanced. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister agreed during his meeting with President Hu on 26 June that he would visit Beijing for the next UK-China Summit in November. My right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is taking forward our economic and financial dialogue. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary plans to make an early visit to China for the next round of our strategic dialogue.

Colombia

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects to meet the President-elect of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos. [5817]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will be meeting the President-elect of Colombia during his current visit to the UK.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the issue of an arrest warrant for murder against the President-elect of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, by the Ecuadorian authorities. [5818]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I am aware that the arrest warrant for President-elect of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos was made by a regional judge in Ecuador in 2008, when Mr Santos was Colombian Defence Minister.

Departmental Postal Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on postage in 2009. [3342]

Alistair Burt: Expenditure on franking at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s UK mail rooms was £131,700 during 2009. In 2005 the amount spent by the FCO with the Royal Mail was £233,788. We have achieved savings partly by sending more documents electronically.

Eastern Europe: Equality

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what events in Eastern Europe for the promotion of equality UK embassies *(a)* have participated in and *(b)* expect to participate in in 2010. [4993]

Mr Lidington: In line with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's human rights agenda, our overseas missions, including those in eastern Europe, have a responsibility to promote human rights in their host countries. This work includes organising and participating in events to promote particular human rights issues, including during 2010 events to support a range of equality and non-discrimination issues. Individual Heads of Mission are free to decide what events to organise and what events organised by others to attend according to the local situation. We do not keep a central record of all events.

Western Balkans

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote stability in the Western Balkans. [5196]

Mr Lidington: The Government attaches great importance to promotion of stability in the Western Balkans. It sees a strategy of pursuing membership of Euro Atlantic structures for all the countries of the region as the best means to create stability, security and prosperity on a firm foundation of democracy, the rule of law and shared values.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear, at the 2 June Sarajevo High Level Meeting of EU and Western Balkan Foreign Ministers, that EU integration of the Western Balkans will require a clear, determined, firm and active approach by the EU as well as concrete steps by the countries of the region to fulfil the criteria for membership of the EU. As I set out during my recent visit to Macedonia and Kosovo, the Government will continue to engage closely with countries in the region to this end. The Government will also continue to work closely with EU and international partners, and will give its full support to Baroness Ashton and Commissioner Fule in their efforts to promote reform and embed stability in the region.

European Court of Justice

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in how many cases before the European Court of Justice *(a)* the UK and *(b)* a UK-based company is a party; and how many such cases relate to the implementation of EU legislation. [5366]

Mr Lidington: There are three cases before the European Court of Justice (ECJ) where the UK is a party in a direct action (i.e. is the applicant or defendant). There is one case before the General Court where the UK is a party in a direct action. Of the four cases in total, one of them (a case before the ECJ) involves the implementation of EU legislation; the other three do not.

We do not hold data on cases before the Court of Justice of the EU that involve a UK-based company and it would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

European External Action Service

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of his Department's staff who will be seconded to the European External Action Service. [5416]

Mr Lidington: Once the European External Action Service (EEAS) is up and running, we will seek to second top-quality staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to good positions. It is difficult to put a number to this as it will depend on what positions become available and the candidates being successful in the selection procedures, for the European External Action Service is merit-based.

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs where each EU embassy of the European External Action Service is located; and what UK diplomatic representation is available at each such location. [5418]

Mr Lidington: The list of EU Delegations/Offices under the responsibility of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is set out in the following table with the UK diplomatic representations at each location alongside them.

	Delegations/offices
Turkey, Ankara	Embassy
Russia, Moscow	Embassy
China, Beijing	Embassy
Serbia, Belgrade	Embassy
Bosnia Herzegovina, Sarajevo	Embassy
Ukraine, Kiev	Embassy
Egypt, Cairo	Embassy
India, New Delhi	High Commission
United States Of America, Washington	Embassy
Afghanistan, Kabul	Embassy
Kenya, Nairobi	High Commission
Fyrom, Skopje	Embassy
Nicaragua, Managua	Embassy in Costa Rica covers
Kosovo, Pristina	Embassy
Morocco, Rabat	Embassy
Indonesia, Jakarta	Embassy
Thailand, Bangkok	Embassy
Croatia, Zagreb	Embassy
Ethiopia, Addis Ababa	Embassy
Nigeria, Abuja	High Commission
West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jerusalem East	Embassy in Tel Aviv covers
Bangladesh, Dhaka	High Commission

	Delegations/offices
Congo, Democratic Republic, Kinshasa	Embassy
South Africa, Republic, Pretoria	High Commission
Senegal, Dakar	Embassy
Albania, Tirana	Embassy
Mozambique, Maputo	High Commission
Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou	High Commission in Ghana covers
Sudan, Khartoum	Embassy
Vietnam, Hanoi	Embassy
Jordan, Amman	Embassy
Kazakhstan, Astana	Embassy
Japan, Tokyo	Embassy
Georgia, Tbilisi	Embassy
Malawi, Lilongwe	High Commission
Tunisia, Tunis	Embassy
Uganda, Kampala	High Commission
Madagascar, Antananarivo	High Commission in Mauritius covers
Pakistan, Islamabad	High Commission
Philippines, Manila	Embassy
Ghana, Accra	High Commission
Niger, Niamey	High Commission in Ghana covers
Mali, Bamako	Embassy Liaison Office
Zambia, Lusaka	High Commission
Cameroon, Yaounde	High Commission
Colombia, Bogota	Embassy
Lebanon, Beirut	Embassy
Tanzania, Dar Es Salaam	High Commission
Syria, Damascus	Embassy
Algeria, Algiers	Embassy
Brazil, Brasilia	Embassy
Haiti, Port Prince	Embassy in Dominican Republic covers
Sierra Leone, Freetown	High Commission
Angola, Luanda	Embassy
Barbados, Bridgetown	High Commission
Guyana, Georgetown,	High Commission
Ivory Coast, Abidjan	High Commission in Ghana covers
Peru, Lima	Embassy
Bolivia, La Paz	Embassy
Guinea Republic, Conakry	Embassy
Rwanda Republic, Kigali	High Commission
Switzerland, Geneve	UK Mission to the UN
Chad, N'Djamena	High Commission in Cameroon covers
Zimbabwe, Harare	High Commission
Benin, Cotonou	High Commission in Nigeria covers
Mauritania, Nouakchott	Embassy in Morocco covers
Gabon, Libreville	High Commission in Cameroon covers
Mauritius, Republic of, Port-Louis	High Commission
Central African Republic, Bangui	High Commission in Cameroon covers
Fiji Islands, The Republic of, Suva	High Commission
Jamaica, Kingston	High Commission
Montenegro, Podgorica	Embassy
Burundi, Bujumbura	High Commission in Rwanda covers
Botswana, Gaborone	High Commission
Ethiopia-African Union, Addis Ababa	High Commission
Guatemala, Guatemala	Embassy
Mexico, Mexico	Embassy
Sri Lanka, Colombo	High Commission
Argentina, Buenos Aires	Embassy
Congo, Republic, Brazzaville	Embassy in Kinshasa covers
Guinea-Bissau, Bissau	Embassy in Senegal covers
Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo	Embassy
Uruguay, Montevideo	Embassy
Cambodia, Phnom Penh	Embassy
Eritrea, Asmara	Embassy
Israel, Tel Aviv	Embassy
Chile, Santiago	Embassy
Togo, Lome	High Commission in Ghana covers
Venezuela, Caracas	Embassy
Armenia, Yerevan	Embassy
Namibia, Windhoek	High Commission
Nepal, Katmandu	Embassy
Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby	High Commission
Yemen, Sanaa	Embassy
Laos, Vientiane	Embassy in Thailand covers
United States Of America, New York	UK Mission to UN and British Consulate General
Moldova, Chisinau	Embassy
Tajikistan, Dushanbe	Embassy
Azerbaijan, Baku	Embassy
Liberia, Monrovia	High Commission in Ghana covers
Canada, Ottawa	High Commission
Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek	Embassy in Kazakhstan covers
Lesotho, Maseru	High Commission in South Africa covers
Costa Rica, San Jose	Embassy
Ecuador, Quito	Embassy
Honduras, Tegucigalpa	Embassy in Guatemala covers
Australia, Canberra	High Commission
East Timor, Dili	Embassy in Indonesia covers
Djibouti, Djibouti	Embassy in Ethiopia covers
Korea, Seoul	Embassy
Norway, Oslo	Embassy
Paraguay, Asuncion	Honorary Consul
Cape Verde,	Embassy in Senegal covers
Gambia, Fajara	High Commission in Banjul covers
Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur	High Commission
Salvador, San Salvador	Embassy in Guatemala covers
Surinam, Paramaribo	Honorary Consul
Swaziland, Mbabane	High Commission in South Africa covers
Cuba, Havane	Embassy
Singapore, Singapore	High Commission
Trinidad and Tobago, Port of Spain	High Commission
Austria, Vienna	Embassy, UK Delegation to OSCE, Mission to UN
China, Hong-Kong	British Consulate General
Iraq, Baghdad	Embassy
Saudi Arabia, Riyad	Embassy
Uzbekistan, Tashkent	Embassy

	Delegations/offices
Belarus, Minsk	Embassy
France, Paris	Embassy
Solomon Islands, Honiara	High Commission
Italy, Rome	Embassy
Switzerland, Berna	Embassy
Taiwan, Taipei	British Trade and Cultural Office
New Caledonia, Noumea	None (covered by embassy in Paris as Dependant Territory of France)
New Zealand, Wellington	High Commission
Vanuatu, Port Vila	High Commission in Fiji covers
France, Strasbourg	UK Delegation to Strasbourg

European Union Bill

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's officials are working on preparations for the European Union Bill. [5024]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There are four officials working on preparations for the forthcoming European Union Bill full-time. In addition, a number of other officials have contributed to the ongoing work in this area.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of Iran's uranium enrichment programme; and if he will make a statement. [4996]

Alistair Burt: The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued his latest report on Iran on 31 May 2010. The report makes it clear that Iran has shown no sign of suspending its enrichment-related activities as required by six UN Security Council Resolutions, and continues to stockpile enriched uranium. Iran is enriching uranium up to nearly 20%, a significant step towards weapons grade enrichment, despite having no credible civilian purpose for the fuel. We continue to share IAEA concerns about the possible existence in Iran of activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile.

New Zealand: Shechita

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the prohibition on the practice of shechita in New Zealand; and if he will make a statement. [5516]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I am aware of the prohibition on shechita in New Zealand. This is a matter for the Government of New Zealand and its citizens.

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to attend this year's ministerial conference of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. [5410]

Mr Lidington: I will attend the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe informal ministerial meeting in Almaty.

Pope Benedict XVI

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of the forthcoming visit to the UK by Pope Benedict. [5507]

Mr Bellingham: Pope Benedict XVI will visit the UK not only as the leader of the Catholic Church but as a Head of State, and at the invitation of Her Majesty the Queen. Part of the costs of the visit will therefore fall to the Government.

The total costs can be divided into two categories: policing costs, which will be met by the state from existing policing budgets, and non-policing costs, which will be split between the Catholic Church and the Government. Discussions are under way to finalise these costs and to agree the appropriate levels of contribution from the Government and the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, and of Scotland.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the visit to the UK of Pope Benedict XVI; what recent discussions he has had with his Vatican counterpart on the visit; and if he will make a statement. [5518]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not met his Vatican counterpart to discuss the Papal visit. However, a delegation from the Holy See visited the UK from 21 to 24 June and held discussions with Government officials and representatives of the Catholic Church on preparations for the visit. These included details of the programme and organisation of the various events involved, in addition to accommodation, travel and practical arrangements for the Papal delegation. Our embassy to the Holy See is in close touch with the Vatican over arrangements for the visit.

Private Military Security Companies

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to ban the use of private military security companies in combat and combat support in military operations. [5352]

Mr Bellingham: The Government currently have no plans to ban the use of private military and security companies (PMSCs) in combat and combat support in military operations. The Government do not use PMSCs in combat operations. PMSCs are primarily contracted to provide mobile and static guarding of our embassy staff and missions overseas. They provide a vital and necessary role in hostile environments, and enable the Government to fulfil their policy objectives in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Government are considering how best to promote high standards of conduct by PMSCs internationally. We believe it is important to reduce the risk that PMSC activities might give rise to human rights abuses or breaches of international humanitarian law, assist internal repression, or provoke or prolong internal or regional tensions.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to introduce legislation to regulate private military and security companies. [5756]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary has not yet taken a view on this issue as Ministers will be reviewing the way ahead.

Somalia: Piracy

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to work with African governments to reduce the incidence of piracy off the coast of Somalia. [4779]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are working closely with African governments, the EU, the UN, the United States and other international partners to find sustainable solutions to Somali piracy, notably through the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).

In parallel with its strong support for naval counter-piracy operations and the widest possible implementation of shipping industry-agreed self-protection measures (Best Management Practice), the UK supports steps being taken to increase the capabilities of regional countries to combat piracy, consistent with their political commitment to take action through their signature of the January 2009 Djibouti Code of Conduct.

The UK recognises within this context the primary importance of building up prosecution and especially penal structures, including in Kenya, Seychelles and within Somalia itself, and welcomes the work of the UN in this sector, supported by the EU and others. The UK has joined partners in encouraging more regional countries to share the burden assumed by Kenya and Seychelles in prosecution and detention, and welcomes dialogue with Tanzania, Mauritius and others in this sense.

The UK also supports reinforcement of other law enforcement and military structures, including coastguard, as well as support for alternative livelihoods and community engagement. The UK has provided direct support this year for Seychelles, Somaliland and Yemen coastguards. The UK continues to support the full implementation of the recommendations of the UK-led CGPCS regional Counter Piracy Capability Development Needs Assessment mission to East Africa and the Gulf of Aden, endorsed by the CGPCS in January 2010, which encapsulates all these requirements. A copy of the report was placed in the Library of the House.

Ultimately, the enduring solution to piracy in Somalia lies in restoring governance and law and order in Somalia itself, an objective shared by the UK with African governments and other international partners.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Department's officials in the region on the political situation in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [5424]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary receives regular updates on Somalia from departmental officials both in the region and in London. He held internal discussions in June to discuss Somalia including the current political situation.

Somalia is important to the UK because of the threat it poses to the UK, and to regional and international stability, as well as piracy off its shores, and the continuing need for urgent development and humanitarian assistance. The Government are working closely with international partners to address these issues and support progress in Somalia.

It is essential that we continue to support the Djibouti Peace Process. The international community must coordinate closely to ensure coherent and effective support to overcome the obstacles to progress. There is no military solution in Somalia; political reconciliation is vital to Somalia's future security and the Transitional Federal Government needs to deliver peace and stability to the Somali people. We and others will support it in doing so.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on recognition of Somaliland. [5425]

Mr Bellingham: The UK, like the rest of the international community, does not recognise Somaliland as an independent state. While we keep this policy under review, there are currently no plans to change this long-standing position.

Sovereignty

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what advice he has received from lawyers in his Department on the legal effect of any United Kingdom Sovereignty Act; [5279]

(2) what legal advice the Government have received on the legal effect of any United Kingdom Sovereignty Act. [5280]

Mr Lidington: As set out in their coalition agreement, the Government have agreed to examine the case for a United Kingdom Sovereignty Bill to make it clear that ultimate authority remains with Parliament. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I, together with ministerial colleagues, are analysing this issue comprehensively, seeking advice as necessary, including legal advice.

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Chinese counterpart the case of the imprisonment of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, with particular reference to the application to his case of the change in Chinese law on the admissibility of evidence obtained under torture. [6087]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of Tenzin's case and are concerned for his well-being. This case was raised in September 2009 when we included Tenzin's name as part of an individual case list handed over during the visit of the then Minister of State responsible for China.

The Chinese response stated then that in January 2005, the Sichuan Provincial High People's Court had decided to commute his punishment from the death sentence to life imprisonment and life deprivation of political rights.

He was also included in a case list at the EU/China Human Rights Dialogue in May 2009.

We will continue to raise this case at every appropriate opportunity.

UN Security Council

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of other permanent members of the UN Security Council on reform of the Security Council, with particular reference to giving India, Japan and Brazil permanent membership of the Security Council. [5195]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not had recent discussions with representatives of other permanent members of the UN Security Council about Security Council reform or about extending permanent membership to India, Japan or Brazil.

Discussions about UN Security Council reform are ongoing at official level in New York. The latest exchange of views between all member states took place there on 28 June. At those discussions, the UK continued to support reform leading to a Security Council more representative of today's global realities and no less effective in taking decisions to maintain international peace and security. The UK also maintained support for the candidacies of Japan, India, Germany and Brazil for new permanent seats, as well as African representation.

SCOTLAND

Scotland Bill

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials of his Department are working on preparations for the Scotland Bill. [5117]

Michael Moore: There are currently four officials within the Scotland Office and the Office of the Solicitor to the Advocate-General in the core Bill team. Other members of the office are contributing to the preparations of the Bill as part of their wider policy responsibilities. In addition staff across Whitehall Departments with lead policy responsibility for specific recommendations from the Caiman Commission will be involved in the preparations for the Bill.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the planned reduction to the UK's carbon dioxide emissions by at least 30 per cent. by 2020 will involve *(a)* using carbon markets to offset emissions and *(b)* the recalculation of emissions from logging. [5208]

Gregory Barker: The Government are pushing to secure early EU agreement to move to a more ambitious emissions reduction target of 30% below 1990 levels by 2020. When this has been agreed, and the methodology for sharing the effort between EU member states has been decided, the UK will move to a more ambitious 2020 target, following advice from the Committee on Climate Change.

Although the EU rules have not yet been agreed, we anticipate that carbon markets will be taken into account in deciding how the UK will meet its share of an EU 30% target. We also anticipate that forestry activities, including the effect of logging, will make a contribution.

Carbon Emissions: Departmental Co-ordination

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 139W, on carbon emissions: departmental coordination, who the members are of the high-level group of senior officials established to promote more effective cross-departmental working on building a low carbon economy. [5990]

Gregory Barker: The members of the high-level group of senior officials established to promote more effective cross-departmental working on building a low carbon economy are the Director General of National Climate Change and Consumer Support at the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Director General of Business Group in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the Director General of Strategy, Evidence and Finance at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Senior officials from other Government Departments are invited to attend as appropriate.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made by the Government on implementing commitments made at the Copenhagen climate change summit to limit the increase in global temperatures to below two degrees celsius. [5071]

Gregory Barker: Since Copenhagen over 70 countries have set out the targets and actions they will take to reduce their emissions. If delivered in full, these commitments should be consistent with global emissions peaking before 2020, and will be a crucial step towards establishing a credible trajectory for holding the global temperature increase to below 2 degrees celsius.

We want all countries to deliver at the top end of the emission reduction commitments they have made and will continue to push the EU to show leadership by increasing our emission reduction target to 30%.

The Government have committed to providing £1.5 billion in fast start finance over three years (2010-12) to help developing countries tackle and adapt to climate change some £300 million of this will be dedicated to addressing emissions from deforestation.

Departmental Human Resources

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5106]

Gregory Barker: The Department was formed on 3 October 2008. Expenditure on human resources was £1,294,000 in 2008-09 and £2,414,000 in the full year 2009-10.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 18-19W, on departmental manpower, how many full-time equivalent staff are employed at each civil service grade in each ministerial private office; and what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in each private office. [3240]

Gregory Barker: The number of full-time equivalent staff at each civil service grade employed in each ministerial private office is set out in the following table. In total this is one fewer than the arrangements inherited from the last Government.

Pay grade	*Number*
Secretary of State	
SCS PB1	1
Grade 6	1
Grade 7	1
HEO (including Fast Stream)	3
EO	1
AO	1
Minister of State for Energy	
Grade 7	1
HEO (including Fast Stream)	2
EO	1
AO	0.5
Minister of State for Climate Change	
Grade 7	1
HEO	2
EO	1
AO	0.5
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State	
HEO	1
EO	1
AO	0.5

The Senior Civil Servant (SCS) Pay Band 1 range is £58,200—£117,800.

The Department's pay ranges below the SCS effective from 1 August 2009 are shown in the following table:

London grade	*Min*	*Max*
AA	17,867	19,212
AO	20,834	22,646
EO	24,992	29,060
HEO	29,261	34,424
SEO	34,713	41,851
Grade 7	46,975	56,597
Grade 6	56,707	68,322
Fast Stream	27,000	33,654

Electricity Generation

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to prevent any future shortfall in UK electricity generation. [5047]

Charles Hendry: It is a priority for the Government to ensure that the UK has secure electricity supplies and an appropriate capacity margin over the course of this decade and into the 2020s.

Our Programme for Government is clear that we will reform energy markets to deliver a security of supply mechanism.

The Queen's Speech also announced that legislation will be introduced to improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses, to promote low carbon energy production and to secure energy supplies.

Energy Supply

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to increase the security of the UK's energy supply. [5030]

Charles Hendry: The coalition agreement set out that we will:

> reform energy markets to deliver security of supply and investment in low carbon energy;
>
> instruct Ofgem to establish a security guarantee of energy supplies;
>
> give an Annual Energy Statement to Parliament to set strategic energy policy and guide investment; and
>
> through our green deal, encourage efficiency improvements paid for by savings in energy bills.

We are making progress: we will shortly publish our first Annual Energy Statement, together with our 2050 pathways project, and the Queen's Speech set out our legislative intentions.

Energy: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 56W, on energy: subsidies, what agreements were made on energy subsidy reform at the G20 Toronto summit. [5991]

Gregory Barker: We welcome the agreement on subsidies reached at the recent G20 summit. The relevant part of the communiqué reads:

> "We note with appreciation the report on energy subsidies from the International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), OECD and World Bank. We welcome the work of Finance and Energy Ministers in delivering implementation strategies and timeframes, based on national circumstances, for the rationalization and phase out over

the medium term of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, taking into account vulnerable groups and their development needs. We also encourage continued and full implementation of country specific strategies and will continue to review progress towards this commitment at upcoming summits."

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on subsidies for nuclear power in each year since 1997. [6212]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Redcar (Ian Swales) on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 600-601W.

Fuel Poverty

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to extend his policy to reduce levels of fuel poverty to cover people who use oil and liquefied petroleum gas for heating. [5098]

Gregory Barker: We recognise the difficulties faced by those off-grid households who are in fuel poverty. We will continue to examine whether existing fuel poverty measures could be made more effective or new policies introduced. As announced in the Budget on 22 June, the Government are considering the case for introducing a fuel duty discount in remote rural areas. We are also developing our policy on Social Price Support and, subject to the outcome of the spending review and future consultation, we are considering providing financial benefits through the scheme on electricity accounts to be more inclusive of those vulnerable customers living off the gas grid.

Green Investment Bank

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable has been set for the establishment of the Green Investment Bank; and what recent progress has been made on implementing that proposal. [5056]

Gregory Barker: Following the Spending Review, the Government will bring forward detailed proposals on the creation of a Green Investment Bank to help the UK meet the low-carbon investment challenge. A wide range of options, including those published in the Wigley Report detailing the scope and structure of the Green Investment Bank, are under consideration.

Home Energy Efficiency Programme

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future of the home energy efficiency programme. [5067]

Gregory Barker: The Coalition has made a priority of energy efficiency; it reduces energy bills, cuts carbon and energy demand, improving our energy security.

We announced our intention to put in place the legal framework needed for Green Deal Programme in the Queen's Speech. It will be a key element of our Energy Bill in the first session of this Parliament.

We have committed to a Green Deal that will provide energy efficiency improvements to homeowners at no up-front cost, with consumers paying through the savings they make on their energy bills. This represents a real step change and we believe the Green Deal will both substantially increase the rate of energy efficiency improvement in our housing stock and stimulate growth in green jobs.

On 30 June, we also announced an extended, more ambitious and targeted Carbon Emissions Reduction Target to December 2012.

Redfern Inquiry

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 56W, on human tissue analysis in UK nuclear facilities inquiry, for what reasons there is currently no publication date for the report of the Redfern Inquiry on examination of tissue taken from individuals who had worked in the nuclear industry. [5351]

Charles Hendry: Publication of the Redfern Inquiry report into the analysis of human tissue taken from individuals who had worked in the nuclear industry is planned to take place before the summer recess. However, as we wish to lay the report as a parliamentary paper, this date is dependent on the parliamentary timetable.

Warm Front Scheme

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Eaga on the management of the Warm Front Scheme and the delays experienced by customers for repairs to which they are entitled. [5461]

Gregory Barker: Under the terms of the contract, the Department and Eaga meet regularly to review Eaga's management of the Warm Front Scheme and any delays experienced by customers. There is a monthly operations meeting and a quarterly scheme management board meeting.

HEALTH

Ataxia-Telangiectasia

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons have been diagnosed with ataxia-telangiectasia in each of the last 10 years; what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into this condition; what services are available to assist those diagnosed with the condition; and if he will make a statement. [5655]

Mr Burstow: Information on the number of people diagnosed with ataxia telangiectasia is not collected. However, it has been estimated that there are currently around 200 people in the United Kingdom with this condition.

The National Institute for Health Research is funding the Care of Ataxia Patients study: an evaluation of service provision for people with ataxia. The Medical

Research Council funds a broad portfolio of research on conditions such as ataxia telangiectasia which are caused by DNA damage.

There is currently no cure for ataxia telangiectasia, and no treatment which will slow the progression of this disease. However, treatment can be provided for the frequent respiratory infections and pulmonary problems, as well as help for the weakened immune system. Speech and occupational therapy, as well as wider social care, can also be provided.

There are two specialist clinics, in Papworth and Nottingham, which offer multi-disciplinary care for those with ataxia telangiectasia.

Botulinum Toxin

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued for medicines with botulinum toxin type A as the active ingredient in the last three years for which figures are available; and how many such prescriptions were issued *(a)* by NHS practitioners, *(b)* privately, *(c)* under a medicinal product licence by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and *(d)* for other indications. [5455]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on private prescribing, the number of prescriptions issued for a medicine, or the indication for which it is prescribed, is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of botulinum toxin type A prescription items dispensed in the community in England is shown in the table.

Botulinum toxin type A prescription items

	Prescription items[1] (thousand)
2007	0.2
2008	0.2
2009	0.3

[1] Excludes use in hospitals.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in establishing the Cancer Drugs Fund. [4800]

Mr Simon Burns: We are working towards implementing the Cancer Drugs Fund from April 2011. In the meantime, we are considering what more can be done before this to help patients access the cancer drugs recommended by their clinicians.

Cancer: Health Services

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to revise the Cancer Reform Strategy. [5134]

Mr Burstow: We are committed to improving outcomes for cancer patients and that will be the focus of our future cancer strategy.

Cardiovascular Disease

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department received PH25 prevention of cardiovascular disease guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and on what date it published its response. [5190]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) provided the Department with a copy of its final guidance on the prevention of cardiovascular disease on 15 June 2010. NICE has published its guidance and the Department has no plans to publish a response.

Care Homes

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the average number of members of family and friends who visited each resident in *(a)* small group homes, *(b)* residential homes and *(c)* campus homes in each week in the latest period for which figures are available. [5034]

Mr Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for South Swindon (Robert Buckland) of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 46W, on care homes, whether the Commission will report *(a)* within a year of the announcement of the coalition programme or within a year of the Commission being established and *(b)* to Parliament or the Government. [6098]

Mr Burstow: Further details on the Commission for funding long-term care, including arrangements for reporting, will be announced shortly.

Departmental Human Resources

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5096]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental spend on human resources for the last four financial years is set out in the following table:

	Human resources spend (£)
2009-10	3,057,941
2008-09	3,088,426
2007-08	3,301,781
2006-07	3,333,343

Prior to 2006, the Department's human resources function was devolved, so the information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Location

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider relocating civil servants in his Department who are currently working in central London to Leeds. [5580]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department currently has no specific plans to relocate civil servant posts in central London to Leeds, or other locations.

The size and shape of the Department and its arm's length bodies is under review and this will include consideration about the location of functions.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5716]

Mr Simon Burns: The address of the head office of each the Department's executive non-departmental public bodies is as follows:

	Address
Alcohol Education and Research Council (AERC)	Eliot House (EH 1.4), 10-12 Allington Street London SW1E 5EH
Appointments Commission (AC)	Ground Floor Blenheim House Duncombe Street West 1 Leeds LS1 4PL
Care Quality Commission (CQC)	Citygate Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4PA
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE)	1st Floor Kierran Cross 11 Strand London WC2N 5HR
General Social Care Council (GSCC)	Goldings House 2 Hay's Lane London SW1 2HB
Health Protection Agency (HPA)	7th Floor Holborn Gate 330 High Holborn London WC1V 7PP
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)	21 Bloomsbury Street London WC1B 3HF
Human Tissue Authority (HTA)	Finlaison House 15-17 Furnival Street London EC4A 1AB
Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts (Monitor)	4 Matthew Parker Street London SW1H 9NL

The Department also has 31 advisory NDPBs, but these are all hosted by the Department or one of its executive bodies, so they do not have separate head offices.

Food: Labelling

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on EU proposals to end the sale of eggs and other food products by number rather than by weight; and if he will make a statement. [5038]

Mr Simon Burns: At present egg producers are able to sell eggs by number, a practice we wish to see continue. We are advised that the matter is being discussed in the context of the European Commission proposal for a new food information regulation, which is still under negotiation. The United Kingdom will continue to seek amendments to the text which will allow selling by number to continue.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that the Food Standards Agency's single, integrated, front-of-pack traffic light colour-coded system is adopted as the national standard for food and drink products sold in England. [5193]

Mr Burstow: It is important that people have nutritional information on the pack of food they buy, so that they can make good choices about what they eat. We are considering a number of schemes at the moment.

Health Bill

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many officials of his Department are working on preparations for the Health Bill. [5115]

Mr Simon Burns: As announced in the Queen's Speech, a Health Bill will be introduced in the first parliamentary session. A dedicated Bill team of three officials has been established in the Department. A number of other policy and legal officials are also working on preparations for the Bill.

Hearing Impairment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will require health professionals to record and monitor the number of people with hearing impairment as a result of using personal music players at too high a volume; and if he will make a statement; [4768]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in each age group who sought treatment for hearing impairment and loss arising from their use of personal music players in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [4769]

Mr Burstow: The Royal National Institute for Deaf People have conducted research that shows 66% of personal music player users are listening to music at louder than 85 decibels, which according to the World Health Organisation, can cause permanent hearing damage over time.

Health professionals focus on diagnosing and treating all those with hearing impairment. There are no plans to require monitoring of people whose hearing impairment is a result of using personal music players at too high a volume.

For any individual patient, it is very difficult to establish that hearing impairment is the result of listening to personal music players at high volume alone. The burden of doing so, and the subsequent monitoring of such cases, would require the creation of a national health service research project, with significant resource implications. Neither the Department nor the NHS collect information about "the number of people in each age group who sought treatment for hearing impairment and loss arising from their use of personal music players".

Given the difficulties in establishing the cause of hearing impairment no information is currently available about the number of people who sought treatment resulting from their use of personal music players.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the maximum appropriate waiting time between the date of referral and the date of an operation for NHS patients. [5948]

Mr Simon Burns: The revised "NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11", published on 21 June, removed the burden of central performance management of the 18-week maximum referral to treatment waiting times target by the Department. This change will empower patients and clinicians, putting them at the heart of decision-making, with a focus on quality and outcomes, not processes. A copy of the framework has already been placed in the Library.

To ensure patients do not experience undue delay at any stage of their treatment we will continue to publish and monitor hospital waiting times. General practitioners and commissioners of health services can use this information locally to ensure that they can continue to improve access to services for their patients.

Iraq

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget is of each current project in Iraq funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [4784]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently funding no projects in Iraq.

Making It Better Programme: Greater Manchester

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse has been of the review of the Making It Better Programme in Greater Manchester. [5638]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the local national health service and as such the information requested is not held centrally. Information on the cost of the Making It Better programme can be obtained from the Making It Better Implementation Team direct, through the North West strategic health authority.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on summary care records; and how much remains to be spent on the project. [5573]

Mr Simon Burns: A total of £96.7 million has been spent on the development of the summary care record to date and a further £48.8 million is planned to be spent on the project. Costs incurred by the national health service in local implementation of the summary care record are not collected centrally.

The Government are reviewing the content and opt-out arrangements for the summary care record which will inform final decisions on future spending plans as part of the Government's spending review.

Mental Health Act 1983

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to bring forward proposals for the repeal of section 141 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [4515]

Mr Harper: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are seriously considering the recommendations on attitudes to mental health illness and the disqualification of MPs in the report of the Speaker's Conference on Parliamentary Representation, which recommended repeal of Section 141.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members of the board of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust were on 18 March 2009; and whether he plans to replace any members of the board. [5474]

Mr Simon Burns: Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust's annual report for 2008-09 lists all the board members that served during that year (1 April 2008-31 March 2009). The report was laid before Parliament on 7 July 2009 and is available in the Library. The Secretary of State has no powers of appointment or dismissal of the members of a foundation trust's board.

North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 406-7W, on hospitals: Durham, (1) what representations he received that informed his decision not to proceed with the proposed North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital; and if he will make a statement; [5889]

(2) on what date the decision not to proceed with the proposed North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital, announced on 17 June 2010 was taken; [5890]

(3) what the total cost to public funds has been of proposed North Tees and Hartlepool Hospital to date; and if he will make a statement. [5891]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 406W, regarding the cost to the public of the scheme to date.

There were no representations received that informed the decision not to proceed with the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust scheme.

The date that the final decision to not proceed with this scheme was taken on 16 June 2010.

Nutrition: Children

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that children and young people under the age of 16 years are not exposed to marketing, advertising and promotions which encourage an unhealthy diet. [5188]

Mr Simon Burns: The television regulator Ofcom has placed scheduling restrictions on the broadcast advertising of foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) during children's programmes and programmes of particular appeal to children up to the age of 16.

In addition, under the Committee of Advertising Practice rules food and drink manufacturers cannot use promotional offers, celebrities, licensed characters popular with children, or health or nutrition claims in HFSS food and drink adverts targeted directly at primary school children.

Older People: Swimming

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the health of elderly people of the Government's decision to end free swimming for people aged over 60. [5268]

Mr Burstow: An independent evaluation of the free swimming programme was published on 17 June 2010. It found that more than eight out of 10 over-60s would have gone swimming anyway, even if they had had to pay. A value-for-money analysis found that the cost of the programme outweighed the health benefits. No formal assessment was made of the likely effect on the health of older people of the Government's decision to end the free swimming programme.

Social Services: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce a new funding system for social care. [5950]

Mr Burstow: "Freedom, Fairness, Responsibility", the coalition's programme for government, set out plans to establish a commission which will consider how to ensure responsible and sustainable funding for long-term care. The commission will be established as soon as possible and report within a year.

Stomach Cancer

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve services for people diagnosed with stomach cancer. [5135]

Mr Burstow: In 2001 the Department published "Improving Outcomes in Upper Gastro-intestinal Cancers", which set out recommendations on how services for patients with upper gastro-intestinal cancers, including stomach cancer, should be organised in order to ensure the best outcomes. A copy has already been placed in the Library. It is for cancer networks, in collaboration with local stakeholders including strategic health authorities, to decide how best to implement the "Improving Outcomes" guidance.

We are in the process of developing a White Paper about the national health service which, among other things, will look at the best way to ensure high quality, cost-effective commissioning of patient-centred services, including cancer services.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of survival rates for stomach cancer; and what steps he is taking to improve these survival rates. [5253]

Mr Burstow: The one-year age standardised relative survival rates for patients diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2003 to 2007, followed up to 2008, was 39.3% for women and 39.5% for men. This shows the percentage of cancer patients alive one year after cancer is diagnosed.

Data on five-year unstandardised relative survival rates are also available on the Office for National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007

Evidence suggests that the most important reason for lower survival rates in England compared with other countries is later diagnosis of cancer, and so patients have more advanced disease at diagnosis. Over the coming months we shall be looking at what needs to be done to achieve earlier diagnosis. This will include tackling low public awareness of cancer symptoms, delays in people with symptoms presenting to their general practitioner and delays in referral to secondary care.

Strokes: Health Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of action by NHS organisations to improve public and professional awareness of stroke since 2007. [5292]

Mr Simon Burns: The national Act FAST stroke awareness campaign has been evaluated in some detail and has proved to be very effective in raising awareness of the signs of stroke and the need to treat it as a medical emergency. Analysis of 999 calls found that in the first four months of the campaign there was a 55.5% increase in stroke related calls.

Across the population generally, awareness of FAST as an acronym increased significantly across the two waves of research, from 9%, to 54%. Qualitative research among health and social care workers found that the campaign had been effective in educating them about the signs of stroke and need for urgency. These messages were strong, clear and well recalled after six weeks.

The Department has not conducted any assessment of the effectiveness of action by national health service organisations to improve public and professional awareness of stroke since 2007.

PRIME MINISTER

UN Millennium Development Goals: Meetings

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to attend the UN Millennium Development Goals meeting to be held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010. [5710]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 570.

Colombia

Mr Davidson: To ask the Prime Minister when he next expects to meet the President-elect of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos. [5816]

The Prime Minister: I met President-elect Santos for the first time today.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Jessica Morden: To ask the Prime Minister (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 32-4WS, on special advisers, when he next expects to update the information; [5650]

(2) what changes there have been in respect of the *(a)* number and *(b)* cost of employing special advisers since 10 June 2010; and when he next plans to publish a list of the names and salaries of special advisers in post. [6182]

The Prime Minister: I published a list of special advisers in my written ministerial statement on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 32WS. As set out in the ministerial code, an updated statement will be published annually.

Public Sector

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister what estimate has been made of the cost of him and the Deputy Prime Minister writing to every public sector worker. [5674]

The Prime Minister: The letter was distributed by e-mail, at no additional cost, through established channels that public sector bodies use to communicate with their staff.

Russia: Bilateral Discussions

Chris Bryant: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether he raised the matter of extent of respect for human rights in the Russian Federation in bilateral conversations with President Medvedev during the recent G8/G20 summit; [5458]

(2) whether he raised the case of the ongoing second trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky in bilateral discussions with President Medvedev during the recent G8/G20 summit; [5459]

(3) whether he raised the issue of the murder of Alexander Litvinenko and the extradiction of Andrei Lugovoi to the UK in his bilateral discussions with President Medvedev at the recent G8/G20 Summit. [5460]

Mr Macshane: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has discussed the extradition of Audrei Lugovoi to the UK in his bilateral discussions with President Medvedev at the recent G8/G20 Summit. [6482]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my office on Saturday 26 June 2010. A copy is available on the Number 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/06/pm-and-president-medvedev-hold-talks-at-g8-52477

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Overseas Aid

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will take steps to establish a complementary mechanism to the Three Diseases Fund to ensure aid reaches border areas in Burma which cannot be reached by that fund. [5477]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In addition to supporting the nationwide Three Diseases Fund in Burma, the Department for International Development (DFID) has expanded its aid for the health sector in border areas. We now provide TB treatment for Burmese people along the Thai border through the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit. We support the Shan Women's Action Network who provide basic health services to displaced people, and provide medical supplies through the Mae Tao Clinic. We are also expanding our cross-border health support from China. At least 345,000 people in remote border areas have benefited from this programme since 2006. I am currently considering a new proposal for health support for displaced people in conflict-affected parts of Eastern Burma.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in coordinating in-country and cross-border aid to Burmese internally displaced people; and how much funding the Government have provided for this work in each of the last three years. [5572]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) welcomes the United Nations' (UN) efforts in Burma to improve the coordination of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced people. We have seen an improvement in information sharing between organisations on their aid activities but recognise that this process will take time because of the risks involved in working in this part of Burma.

DFID does not currently fund the UN's coordination work to internally displaced people. However, we provided £33,500 in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to the UN Resident Coordinator's office to help facilitate discussions between organisations providing humanitarian aid.

We are currently reviewing all our aid, including aid channelled through multilateral agencies, to ensure it is as effective as possible and brings real benefit to the world's poor.

Departmental Catering

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4858]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The information requested is not centrally available and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. All expenditure is taken in accordance with the principles of "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury book on "Regularity and Propriety".

Developing Countries: Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent through the International Monetary Fund on overseas projects for the extraction and transport of fossil fuels in the last five years. [4629]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides loans to countries that have trouble meeting their international payments and cannot otherwise find sufficient financing on affordable terms. This financial assistance is designed to help countries restore macroeconomic stability by rebuilding their international reserves, stabilising their currencies, and paying for imports—all necessary conditions for relaunching growth. Unlike multilateral development banks, the IMF does not provide finance for specific projects.

International Assistance: Education

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department plans to provide for education in developing countries which have experienced conflict and natural disasters to achieve progress towards the education Millennium Development Goal. [4752]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In "The Coalition: our programme for government", the Government highlighted their commitment to education, stating that we will prioritise aid spending to ensure all children have access to education and will particularly focus on girls and children with disabilities.

In the coming months, the Department for International Development (DFID) will be reviewing its aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate growth towards the MDGs. This includes a review of our emergency response programme, which will look at the provision of support across sectors in the immediate aftermath of conflict or natural disaster.

With over half of primary aged children not enrolled in school living in fragile states, a total of 42 million children out of an estimated 72 million worldwide, we recognise the need to promote education in fragile and conflict-affected states. We also understand the value of maintaining education in emergencies. However it is important that short term emergency responses to education protect the longer-term prospects of rebuilding education systems and do not fragment or deepen social inequalities.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the timetable is for the Ministerial review of his Department's "Education for All: Education Strategy for 2010-15". [4753]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In "The Coalition: our programme for government", the Government highlighted their commitment to education, stating that we will prioritise aid spending to ensure all children have access to education and will particularly focus on girls and children with disabilities.

In the coming months the Department for International Development (DFID) will be reviewing its aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer, and accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals, including the target on education. DFID's approach to education will be reviewed in this context. I expect the review to be completed later this year.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equal Opportunities: Candidates

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she plans to extend the provisions of the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act 2002 beyond 2015; and whether she has commissioned research into the effect of the operation of that Act on the number of women selected as candidates by political parties. [4388]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality Act 2010 extends the provisions of the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act 2002 until 2030 and contains a power for a Minister to extend their use further beyond that date.

No research has been commissioned into the effect of the 2002 Act.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Betting Shops: Licensing

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 107W, on betting shops: licensing, what the proposed location was of each premises; what local authority rejected each application; and what the grounds of rejection were in each case. [5746]

John Penrose: The Gambling Commission have advised that the following local authorities have rejected licence applications for the following sites:

Haringey Local Authority—Green Lanes
Brent Local Authority—Ealing Road Wembley
Havering Local Authority—South Street
Camden Local Authority—Kingsway
Brent Local Authority—Kilburn High Rd

This information is based solely on returns from local authorities. The Commission does not hold details, and is not supplied details of the grounds for a rejection.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff worked in his Department's ministerial support office on *(a)* 1 May 2010 and *(b)* 1 July 2010. [6158]

John Penrose: The Department employed four staff in the ministerial support office on *(a)* 1 May 2010 and *(b)* 1 July 2010.

I would also refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 28W about the number of staff employed in the private office of each Minister in the Department.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5541]

John Penrose: None.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 June, *Official Report*, column 212W, on departmental official cars, how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have used (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account since 7 May 2010. [5616]

John Penrose: There are no civil servants or special advisers in DCMS who have used a car with a dedicated driver or a car from the Government car pool since 7 May 2010.

Six civil servants have used a taxi ordered through departmental accounts since 7 May 2010.

English Heritage: Finance

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding English Heritage has received from his Department through grant in aid in the last 12 months. [5749]

John Penrose: English Heritage received £131.072 million grant in aid in the financial year 2009-10.

Listed Buildings

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to publish online the names of all listed buildings in England. [5681]

John Penrose: English Heritage already maintains Listed Buildings Online, a website which publishes these data in a searchable format:

http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/Login.aspx

English Heritage is currently working on an enhanced searchable online database of all nationally designated heritage assets and world heritage sites with clear supporting data, including mapping which should be ready by the end of the year.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which buildings have been granted listed building status since 12 May 2010. [5682]

John Penrose: English Heritage maintains Listed Buildings Online, a website which publishes these data in a searchable format

http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/Login.aspx

National Lottery: Disposable Income

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the average proportion of disposable income spent on National Lottery games and scratch-cards, as a percentage of disposable income by those in socio-economic groups *(a)* A, B and C1 and *(b)* C2, D and E. [5578]

John Penrose: The National Lottery Commission (NLC) has advised that they do not hold the information in the requested format.

Research by the Operator of the National Lottery, Camelot, shows that 70% of the UK adult population play national lottery games on a regular basis, with an average weekly player spend of approximately £3.

The demographics of national lottery players are almost an exact match with the demographics of the UK population.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he plans to have with the Northern Ireland Executive on the contribution of Northern Ireland to the London 2012 Olympics. [5362]

Hugh Robertson: I am committed to ensuring that the benefits of the London 2012 games are felt right across the UK and Northern Ireland, and will be looking for an opportunity to meet with the Northern Ireland Executive to discuss their plans as soon as it is practicable to do so.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 243W, on Olympic Games 2012: tickets, how many tickets the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will make available for purchase by the Government. [5615]

Hugh Robertson: Further to my answer of 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 243W, the number of tickets potentially available to Government to purchase is not yet finalised, but will be before spring 2011.

Tennis: Schools

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with the Lawn Tennis Association on increasing participation in tennis by children from state schools. [5593]

Hugh Robertson: I will continue, in the normal course of business, to meet the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to discuss key issues in the sport, including increasing participation by children.

Sport England and the LTA, as a part of their Whole Sport Plan, also continue to discuss the AEGON Schools Tennis Programme, delivered by the Tennis Foundation with LTA support, to increase tennis among children and young people in state schools. This programme includes providing training for teachers, resources and equipment for schools, and supporting activity outside school hours.

Furthermore, we expect tennis to play a prominent role and to capitalise on the huge demand and potential that exists in schools as part of our plan to set up an Olympic and Paralympic-style competition. This will be a nationwide competition that is open to every school and every child in the country.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in each parliamentary constituency who are eligible to be on the electoral roll but are not on it; and what assessment he has made of the accuracy of such estimates. [5265]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an estimate. The Electoral Commission's Report "The completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain", published in March 2010, indicates that:

> "Estimates based on Census records suggest that the completeness of the registers was at 93.5% in 1980, 91 to 93% in 1990 and 91 to 92% in 2000. Evidence available from electoral statistics and surveys of levels of response to the annual canvass of electors suggests that there was a decline in registration levels from the late 1990s to 2006. The same evidence base suggests that the registers have stabilised since 2006, although it is likely that the completeness of the registers has declined since the last national estimate in 2000."

The Report also says the process of estimating registration rates is an:

> "imprecise science"

and says that

> "All current approaches to estimating the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers at a national level are imperfect."

but that

> "The completeness of Great Britain's electoral registers remains broadly similar to the levels achieved in comparative countries."

Polling Stations: Access

Richard Fuller: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to require that all polling stations to be used at the next general election are fully accessible to the disabled. [4615]

Mr Harper: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 extended the existing provisions for making polling places and stations, as far as practicable, accessible for electors who are disabled. Under the Act local authorities were required to undertake a review of polling places in their area within 12 months of the obligation starting to apply to them. An additional obligation was imposed to carry out further reviews at least every four years. This should mean that polling places are regularly checked for accessibility, and consideration given to making reasonable improvements where practicable.

It is important that polling stations are accessible to all voters. The Government will look at this issue with reference to the current legislative framework to see if improvements need to be made.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff worked in his Department's ministerial support office on *(a)* 1 May 2010 and *(b)* 1 July 2010. [6157]

Mr Maude: At 1 May 2010, the Cabinet Office had 10 members of staff within the ministerial support office. As of the 1 July 2010, the office has nine members of staff.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the roles and responsibilities are of each Minister in his Department. [5754]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 47WS.

Employment: Retail Trade

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* full and *(b)* part-time employees working in corner shops and small convenience stores. [5478]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of (a) full and (b) part-time employees working in corner shops and small convenience stores. (5478)

Estimates of employment specifically in corner shops and small convenience stores are not available. Alternative estimates are available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) of employment by type of retail store according to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 2007. Those estimates can be categorised according to the size of the store in terms of the number of its employees, as reported by LFS respondents. For the three-month period January-March 2010 it is estimated that, in the UK, there were 23,000 full-time and 56,000 part-time employees working in non-specialised retail stores where food, beverages or tobacco predominate and which had ten employees or fewer.

These estimates are not seasonally adjusted. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Former Ministers: Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost has been of resettlement payments made to Ministers from each Department who left office at the general election. [5983]

Mr Maude: Severance payments for paid Government Ministers and other office holders are governed by legislation, specifically section 5 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991. Those individuals who leave office under the age of 65 and who do not take up another relevant office within three weeks (six weeks for Opposition office holders at the time of the election) are entitled to receive one-quarter of their annual claimed salary as a severance payment.

I provide here the total cost of severance payments made by each Department to all their eligible Ministers and other office holders in the former Government. These are separate from resettlement grants available to members of Parliament upon leaving the House of Commons.

Total severance payments to all eligible former Ministers in each Department

Department	£
Business, Innovation and Skills	54,626
Cabinet Office	37,464
Communities and Local Government	55,339
Culture, Media and Sport	27,302
Children, Schools and Families	75,870
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	37,464
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	37,464
Health	75,870
Home Office	73,421
International Development	37,464
Ministry of Defence	55,546
Ministry of Justice	53,832
Northern Ireland Office	10,162
Scotland Office	51,448
Transport	52,177
HM Treasury	[1]170,146
Treasury Solicitors	44,884
Wales Office	27,302
Work and Pensions	73,421

[1] Includes severance payments made to Government Whips in the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons non-departmental public bodies were not included in the Central Office of Information's report on Government on the internet. [5699]

Mr Maude: The first round of reporting of cost and usage was limited to websites run directly by the main departments in order to cover a significant majority of the costs while testing and gaining experience with the new methodology for cost and usage measurement. In the light of the success of the first round it is now intended to extend the methodology to other agency and non-departmental public body websites for the second and subsequent reports.

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many requests he has received to open new Government websites since 12 May 2010; [5733]

(2) if he will publish a list of Government websites which end in the suffix gov.uk. [5735]

Mr Hurd: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 30 June 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions 5733 & 5735 regarding Government Website domain name information.

Eighteen .gov.uk domain names have been requested since 12 May 2010.

A list of all government sites ending .gov.uk. is not held centrally within HMG. JANET (UK) hold the register of .gov.uk domain names and provide public access via its "whois" lookup service

http://www.ja.net/services/whois/lookup.php

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what Government websites his Department has identified for closure by September. [5734]

Mr Maude: I have made a commitment to review the existing 820 Government funded websites by the Spending Review in September this year. Expectations are that the review will aim to shut down up to 75% of the existing sites and then look at how to reduce costs by up to 50% on the remaining sites.

The most recent closure by the Cabinet Office was the Modernisation Fund website which was closed on 29 June 2010.

Government Departments: Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 450W, on government departments: manpower, which organisations at what addresses were contacted as part of the scoping exercise; and which of these returned the information requested. [6207]

Mr Maude: All Government Departments, their agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) were within scope for this exercise. Organisations were contacted, via e-mail, through their HR Directors or equivalent.

Where appropriate, Departments were requested to co-ordinate returns for their respective agencies and NDPBs.

The list of those organisations responding in time to be included for publication was published on 18 June 2010 and is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk

Lord-Lieutenancies

Mr Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Lord-Lieutenancies in each constituent part of the UK are *(a)* filled and *(b)* vacant; what the reasons are for each vacancy; and when he expects each vacancy to be filled. [5370]

Mr Harper: There are no vacancies in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The post of Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire is in the process of being filled, following the retirement of the incumbent.

Transparency Board

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if he will publish each *(a)* paper and *(b)* email note produced for consideration at the transparency board meeting of 24 June 2010; [5732]

(2) if he will publish the minutes of the transparency board meeting of 24 June 2010. [5736]

Mr Maude: Yes. I have already published the draft public data principles discussed by the Transparency Board at its meeting on 24 June, and will place them in the Library of the House. I will shortly similarly publish the minutes, terms of reference and the other paper considered by the Board.

EDUCATION

Academies: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether higher level special needs provision in new academy schools will be financed by the local education authority or by the school. [5218]

Mr Gibb: Funding of academies for special educational needs (SEN), except for those pupils with individually assigned resources, is paid by the Young People's Learning Agency, not by the local authority. Where a pupil attracts individually assigned SEN resources, for low-incidence SEN, the local authority will continue to pay these directly.

Departmental Reviews

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government Departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2585]

Michael Gove: The coalition agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews they will be undertaking. My Department will bring forward detailed information about these reviews in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Regulation

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will appoint a trade union representative to the new taskforce for food and farming regulation. [5378]

Mr Paice: The taskforce on farming regulation's membership and terms of reference will be announced in the near future.

The taskforce will consist of a small dynamic group of individuals invited for their personal experience and not as representatives of specific sectors. The taskforce will consult widely and welcome input from all interested parties, including trade unions.

Bees

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department *(a)* holds and *(b)* has requested on the effect of pesticides on bee brains and the bee population; and if she will make a statement. [4750]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not hold any information on the effects of pesticides on bee brains. The successful projects to be funded under the Insect Pollinators Initiative, which is being part funded by DEFRA, were announced on 22 June, and will include an investigation into whether chronic exposure to certain chemicals is interfering with information flow in bee brains and affecting foraging, navigation and communication.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will undertake an investigation to establish whether mobile telecommunications masts have any effects on populations of honey bees. [4819]

Mr Paice: The Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) has recently been investigating the causes of colony losses in England and Wales and the key results have been published on its website:

www.nationalbeeunit.com

The results have shown that the most important risk factor in the mortality or weakening of colonies is deformed wing virus, a virus transmitted by the parasitic varroa mite, clearly indicating failed or unsuccessful treatments of mite infestations.

There is currently no evidence to suggest that mobile telecommunications masts are having an effect on bee populations and this is not an avenue of research that is being considered in the USA, where Colony Collapse Disorder has been confirmed.

Biodiversity

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps her Department is taking to protect threatened species in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands; [5083]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to encourage biodiversity in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands. [5084]

Richard Benyon: Biodiversity is one of DEFRA's highest priorities. We will promote green spaces and wildlife corridors to restore and increase biodiversity. Our White Paper on the natural environment will contain more detail on our plans. In the meantime we will continue ongoing action to protect the best wildlife sites; promote recovery of priority species and habitats through a landscape-scale approach; and embed proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into all relevant sectors of policy and decision-making.

Natural England is the lead delivery body for the Government's strategy to conserve wildlife in England. Examples of Natural England's action in the West Midlands include:

Increasing the total area of the most important sites for nature conservation—Sites of Special Scientific Interest—in the region in favourable or recovering condition; this being 20,000 hectares or 89.75% of the total resource in the region.

Getting 63% of the utilisable agricultural area of the region under an agri-environment agreement through £40 million of annual investment in environmental stewardship and classic schemes, which pay land managers to manage their land in ways that benefits biodiversity, the historic environment and the landscape.

In particular, through the higher level stewardship scheme bringing over 3,000 hectares of existing wildlife habitats into favourable management and creating an additional 450 hectares of new habitats across the region, and bringing an additional 800 hectares of farmland under specific agreement to provide suitable feeding and breeding habitats for target species of farmland birds.

Ensuring that 2,816 hectares (97.3%) of the region's National Nature Reserves are in favourable or recovering condition.

Providing funding of £186,000 in 2009-10 to regional and local biodiversity partnerships in the West Midlands, and supporting the local Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB on Wetland Vision, Lapwing Meadows and other projects, with more than £60,000 of funding in the same year.

Biodiversity: International Cooperation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the UN Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. [6024]

Richard Benyon: We strongly welcome the recent agreement that the UN General Assembly should establish the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IPBES will provide governments and policy makers across the world with independent and trusted scientific advice so that we can take action to protect the world's biodiversity. It will help ensure the best available science underpins work towards the achievement of a post-2010 biodiversity target.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to announce her decision on the badger vaccine deployment project in the Stroud area; and what assessment she has made of its likely effectiveness in controlling the spread of bovine tuberculosis. [5017]

Mr Paice: On 25 June I announced that the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project (BVDP) has been reviewed and will proceed only in one area (Gloucestershire, near Stroud), in order to help maintain capacity at the Food and Environment Research Agency to train lay vaccinators. Badger sett surveys will also be completed in the Gloucestershire area near Cheltenham since this was already well under way. The areas in Staffordshire, Herefordshire/Worcestershire and Devon where the BVDP was due to take place will not now be trapped and vaccinated as part of the project.

The BVDP is a practical project aimed at passing on the skills to trap and vaccinate badgers in the wild. It was not designed as a scientific study to assess the effectiveness of controlling the spread of bovine tuberculosis.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of the effectiveness of (i) badger vaccine deployment projects and (ii) badger culling as a method of controlling the spread of bovine tuberculosis. [5018]

Mr Paice: The coalition Government have committed to introduce a carefully managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine tuberculosis as part of a package of measures on bovine TB. We are currently looking at options including culling and vaccination. We will set out our proposals in due course, including impact assessments that will detail the expected costs, benefits and effectiveness of the measures.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department estimates it will spend on *(a)* the badger vaccination demonstration projects and *(b)* bovine tuberculosis vaccination research in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13. [4742]

Mr Paice: The estimated cost of the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project is as follows:

(i) 2010-11—£614,000;

(ii) 2011-12—£[illegible]3,000;

(iii) 2012-13—£418,000.

Estimated future spending on bovine tuberculosis vaccination research is as follows:

(i) £6,618,555 committed in 2010-11;

(ii) £3,594,760 committed so far in 2011-12;

(iii) No funds committed yet in 2012-13.

These figures show committed funds only and are therefore likely to be underestimates of total spend. Spend for future years will be determined in light of the Spending Review.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which her Department is responsible. [5719]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies, including their addresses, are listed in the Department's Public Bodies return, which is on the Department's website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/with/delivery/landscape/documents/public-bodies.pdf

Departmental Pay

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 53W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in her Department. [3248]

Richard Benyon: Each grade has its own salary band. The salary bands for those grades of staff employed across the ministerial private offices are set out in the following table. Staff may be at any salary point within the pay band quoted for their grade.

Grade	*Salary range*
Senior civil service pay band 1	£58,200-£117,800
Grade 7	£47,847-£57,432
Higher executive officer	£29,848-£34,584
Fast stream	£26,840-£33,654
Executive officer	£25,363-£29,063
Administration officer	£21,024-22,816

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to analyse the distributional effect of the options for reductions in her Department's expenditure. [5241]

Richard Benyon: The Government set out in their document "Spending Review Framework" that they will

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions."

(2.4, page 7)

Further information will be available at the spending review.

Domestic Waste: Recycling

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to encourage households to increase the amount that they recycle. [5261]

Richard Benyon: Decisions about the waste collection and recycling service offered to households are rightly for local authorities to make, taking into account what is appropriate to the circumstances in their local area. This Government believe in incentives rather than penalties, and we encourage councils to reward people for the right behaviours and incentivise them to recycle more.

This Government are clear that we need to go faster and further than has to date been the case in our approach to recycling. We have announced a full review of waste policy in England, including looking at the effect of waste policies on local communities and individual households, and how local authorities can work with people to make the best decisions.

Food Supply

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to encourage self-sufficiency in food production in the UK. [5361]

Mr Paice: DEFRA will continue to support British farming and encourage a sustainable increase in UK production to meet consumer demand, while maintaining a stable and diverse range of supply sources. This balance lowers the risk to our food supply system from unexpected shocks or disruption suffered by trading partners or in our own domestic production.

Food: Standards

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the cost to Government Departments of the introduction of a policy that all food procured by such Departments must meet British standards of production. [4421]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to ensuring that food procured by Government Departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meet British standards of production or their equivalent, wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs. DEFRA has not therefore made an assessment of the cost to individual Government Departments. It is for individual Government Departments to assess whether or not the commitment can be met without increasing overall costs.

I am aware of a number of excellent examples of public sector bodies that have improved the quality and sustainability of the food they serve while at the same time keeping steady, or even reducing their overall costs, so I am convinced that this can be done where there is a will to do it and where central Government Departments show leadership.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on its review of EU legislation on genetically modified food. [4627]

Mr Paice: The Commission is expected to issue a report this autumn that reviews the operation of the EU legislation on the release of genetically modified (GM) organisms and the marketing of GM food and feed products. DEFRA Ministers have not discussed this initiative with the Commission.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Potatoes

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research and development grants her Department has provided for the development of genetically modified potatoes resistant to late blight since May 1997, including for research into resistance genes and mechanisms; [4883]

(2) what research and development grants her Department has provided for the development of potatoes resistant to late blight using traditional breeding since May 1997. [4884]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has not provided funding for any projects developing blight resistant potatoes using genetic modification or through traditional breeding techniques since May 1997.

A collaborative project on agronomic methods for control of the disease is being funded with industry under the Sustainable Arable Link Programme.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research and development grants her Department has provided for the development of genetically modified potatoes resistant to potato cyst eelworm since May 1997. [4885]

Mr Paice: DEFRA contributed to the following collaborative research project funded with industry, which included the development of potato cyst nematode resistant potatoes through genetic modification.

Project number	*Project title*	*Start date*	*End date*	*DEFRA grant (£)*
LK0502	Engineering resistance to nematodes by controlled and specific plant attenuation.	1 May 1996	31 August 2000	87,495

Under the Government Partnership Award Scheme DEFRA has also contributed £41,250 (15% of total cost) to a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) project—'An effective basis for control of potato cyst nematode and assessment of the impact on soil health'—which included assessment of genetically modified potato plants.

Mackerel

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what instructions she has given to her negotiating team for the 29 June 2010 meeting of the Fisheries Council on the UK allocations for mackerel; and if she will make a statement. [4599]

Richard Benyon: At the Fisheries Council on 29 June 2010 the UK plans to make clear that Iceland and the Faroe Islands should promote responsible fishing and that their current actions are unacceptable. We want an agreement to be reached as soon as possible on the negotiations but behaviour that undermines the long-term health of the mackerel stock should not be rewarded when quotas are allocated between different coastal states.

Milk

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to provide dairy farmers with a greater margin on milk sold in supermarkets. [3992]

Mr Paice: The Government have committed to create an ombudsman in the Office of Fair Trading to enforce the provisions of the Grocery Supplies Code of Practice (GSCOP). The GSCOP will control supply chain practices, such as retrospective price changing, that transfer excessive risks and unexpected costs from retailers to their suppliers.

Packaging

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging. [4763]

Richard Benyon: There are two sets of regulations that encourage producers to minimise, recycle and recover packaging and reduce packaging waste: the essential requirements and the producer responsibility regulations.

More still needs to be done to reduce the amount of packaging and packaging waste being generated, however. 'Responsibility deals' such as the Courtauld Commitment have proven to be a good way by which Government and industry can work together to tackle this problem. In 2008 signatories to phase 1 of the Commitment achieved their target to halt growth in grocery packaging. Signatories are now building on this achievement and working towards the targets set in phase 2 of the Commitment, one of which is to reduce the carbon impact of grocery packaging by 10% by 2012.

In carrying out our review of waste policy we will consider the possibility of extending 'responsibility deals' like the Courtauld Commitment to other sectors.

Potatoes

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research and development grants her Department has provided for the development of agronomic methods for controlling potato cyst eelworm since May 1997. [4886]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has provided funding for the following research projects that contribute to improved control of potato cyst nematode/eelworm through improved agronomic practice.

Project number	*Project title*	*Start date*	*End date*	*DEFRA grant (£)*
HP0124T	Improved estimation of between and within field distribution of potato cyst nematodes and the implications for sampling	1 April 1997	31 March 2000	432,661
HP0126	PCN - biological control.	1 April 1997	31 March 2000	168,000
HP0133	Validation of PCR-based techniques alongside other technique used to determine the species of PCN and the increase...	1 January 1999	31 May 1999	15,000

Project number	*Project title*	*Start date*	*End date*	*DEFRA grant (£)*
HP0139	Within-field population changes of potato cyst nematodes related to potato yield and nematicide treatments	1 April 2000	31 March 2001	36,526
HP0115	Impact of nematophagous fungi on the regulation of potato cyst nematode populations	1 April 2000	1 April 2003	204,950
LK0918[1]	Integrated control for PCN	1 January 2001	31 December 2004	467,803
HP0143	Development of a robust assay to estimate the viability of potato cyst nematodes Globodera spp.	1 February 2003	31 January 2004	35,686
HH3111TPO	Investigation of potato cyst nematode (PCN) control	1 March 2003	31 August 2003	32,400
HH3110SPO	Nematode destroying microbes and the decline of potato cyst nematodes	1 April 2003	1 April 2004	74,011
LK0955[1]	Development of drip irrigation technology as a delivery system for the improved targeting and control of nematode pests in a range of root crops	1 April 2004	31 March 2007	211,764
LK0966[1]	Managing potato cyst nematode through maximising natural decline and population suppression	1 January 2006	31 December 2008	209,195

[1] LK0918, LK0955 and LK0966 were collaborative projects with industry in the Sustainable Arable Link Programme.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department will visit the Sárvári Research Trust's blight resistant potato trials in 2010. [4891]

Mr Paice: DEFRA Ministers do not currently have plans to visit the Sárvári Research Trust.

Six-Day Rule

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 412, what advice she has received on the effect on the spread of *(a)* bovine tuberculosis and *(b)* other animal diseases of ending the six-day movement rule. [5162]

Mr Paice: The advice I have received is that standstills confer significant protection against the spread of fast moving diseases such as foot and mouth. The biggest factor in the size of an outbreak is the length of time between the disease entering the country and its detection (the so called silent spread period—typically three weeks). Properly observed standstills limit the number of movements livestock can make during this period and hence reduce the number of potentially infected premises. Standstills are not effective against slower moving diseases such as bovine tuberculosis. As I said in my reply to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron), the six-day rule will be considered by the taskforce.

Water Charges

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value is of the fund accumulated from water abstraction charges through the environmental improvement unit charge; and how much has been *(a)* paid from and *(b)* committed from this fund since its inception. [5052]

Richard Benyon: The value of the fund accumulated from water abstraction charges through the environmental improvement unit charge is £11.96 million. To date no compensation has been paid. In 2010-11 the Environment Agency allocated around £6 million for environmental improvements in East Anglia and the North West. Implementation of these schemes is awaiting ministerial approval.

Once the solution to an abstraction problem has been identified, its delivery is subject to the speed of recovery of funds, ministerial approval and, if necessary, a decision by the Lands Tribunal to decide the level of compensation payable.

Water: Private Sector

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable she has set for the transfer of responsibility for private drains and sewers to water companies; and if she will make a statement. [4737]

Richard Benyon: I am aware of concern for certainty about the timing of the private sewers transfer.

The Government are currently considering how to take forward previously announced proposals for the transfer of private sewers and lateral drains connected to the public sewerage system into the ownership of the water and sewerage companies in England.

Whales: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take *(a)* to ensure the conservation of whales and *(b)* to oppose commercial whaling. [4630]

Richard Benyon: I attended the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Agadir, Morocco in June 2010 and worked strongly with the Commission and others to ensure that the EU took a strong, pro-conservation position and resisted a proposal which would have effectively legitimised a resumption of commercial whaling.

We will continue to strive to ensure long-term protection and conservation of whale populations worldwide. This Government oppose the resumption of commercial whaling, and protecting the moratorium on commercial whaling is of great importance.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of Japan on the moratorium on commercial whaling; and if she will make a statement. [4631]

Richard Benyon: At the recent annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in June, 2010 (IWC62) the UK called on countries to cease their lethal whaling operations and engage only in non-lethal research on whales.

I will shortly be writing to the Japanese Fisheries Minister to express the UK's continued opposition to the killing of whales in the southern and Northwest Pacific oceans, and to the hunting of small cetaceans in Japanese coastal waters.

The UK Government will continue to make our position known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity and argue that Japanese whaling operations undermine the credibility of the IWC as an effective organisation for the conservation of cetacean stocks world-wide.

Wildlife: Crime

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an estimate of the number of individuals involved in committing offences related to wildlife crime reported in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [5403]

Richard Benyon: We have not made an estimate of the number of individuals involved in committing offences related to wildlife crime reported in the last 12 months. Information upon which to base an estimate is not held centrally.

Wind Power: Fisheries

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change steps to mitigate the effects on the UK fishing industry of *(a)* offshore wind farms and *(b)* other clean energy projects. [5010]

Richard Benyon: The licensing process for offshore wind farms includes the consideration of a range of impacts, including those on other uses of the sea, such as fisheries activity. DEFRA officials and officials in the Marine Management Organisation are engaged in the licensing process to ensure that offshore renewable energy is taken forward sustainably.

Prior to the licensing process commencing, fisheries were considered at a strategic level in the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 2009 for some 33 GW of offshore wind. Furthermore, fisheries will be considered in the new Offshore Energy SEA2 that is currently under way to assess oil and gas, gas storage, offshore wind and wave and tidal activities. Both SEAs were produced by the Department for Energy and Climate Change and further details are available at:

www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/index.php

In addition, DEFRA officials are working to implement the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act to develop new marine planning and licensing systems that will help to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and are working with officials in other Departments to deliver this.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to bring forward proposals to end the testing of household products on animals. [4989]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to ending the testing of household products on animals. Work is under way to define the range of products affected and to determine how this can best be achieved. I am not yet in a position to confirm when such testing will be finally brought to an end, but hope to be able to do so shortly.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to bring forward proposals to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. [4990]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. I am currently considering how this can best be achieved. I am not yet in a position to confirm when measures will be introduced.

British Nationality: War Crimes

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for an offence of fraud in connection with lying on immigration or citizenship application forms about participation in war crimes. [4798]

Damian Green: There have been no prosecutions for fraud in connection with lying on immigration or citizenship application forms about participation in war crimes.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Preseli, Pembrokeshire of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 351-52W, on the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit, what the country of origin is of those recommended for refusal/exclusion in each year since 2004. [4825]

Damian Green: UKBA does not disclose information on the country of origin of individuals recommended for refusal/exclusion due to the suspicion of involvement in war crimes. This information is operationally sensitive and disclosure could damage immigration control.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Preseli, Pembrokeshire of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 351-52W, on the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit, how many people the Border Agency recommended for refusal/exclusion in each year since 2004 are still in the UK. [4826]

Damian Green: The UKBA does not hold this information. The UKBA only collates statistics on the number of cases referred to its specialist research team, and the recommendations that the team makes.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 351-52W, on the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit, how many people whose cases the Border Agency referred to the Metropolitan police in each year since 2004 are still in the UK. [4828]

Damian Green: The UKBA does not hold this information. The UKBA only collates statistics on the number of cases referred to its specialist research team, and the recommendations that the team makes.

Cannabis

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to *(a)* reduce the use of cannabis inhaling devices and *(b)* restrict the availability of devices which can be used to inhale cannabis through high street shops. [4196]

Nick Herbert: The National Policing Improvement Agency and the Association for Chief Police Officers in England and Wales and Northern Ireland have issued "Practice Advice on Tackling Commercial Cultivation and Headshops". This guidance can be found at:

www.npia.police.uk/en/docs/Cannabis_Cultivation_R.pdf

It directs police, local authorities and other partners to legislation and powers that can be used to curtail the sale and promotion of drugs paraphernalia, including inhaling devices, by taking local, targeted action.

Legislation available to enforcement authorities includes section 9A of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which establishes an offence to supply any article, often referred to as drug paraphernalia, which may be used for administering or preparing an illegal drug, believing that the article is to be used in this way.

Community Policing

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to review the effectiveness of safer neighbourhood team policing. [5186]

Nick Herbert: The Government support neighbourhood policing. The programme set out by the Coalition explains our approach to policing with greater freedom for police forces from ministerial control, police forces which are better able to deal with the crime and anti-social behaviour that blights people's lives, and are much more accountable to the public they serve. This includes:

directly elected individuals to make the police more accountable

reducing bureaucracy that hinders the police, and introducing better technology

publishing crime maps showing the public what is happening on their streets, and

regular beat meetings allowing residents to hold the police to account.

We will consider how neighbourhood policing—working with local government and other local partners—can take forward these aims.

Control Orders

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* people and *(b)* foreign nationals were subject to a control order in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) 2010 to date. [4899]

Nick Herbert: The Secretary of State reports to Parliament on the exercise of her powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 on a quarterly basis and additionally on an ad hoc basis if required. As the figures for control orders vary within any given year, my hon. Friend is advised to consult the reports which include the number of individuals subject to a control order and the number who are foreign nationals.

I accordingly refer my hon. Friend to these reports, dated 21 June 2010, 16 March 2010, 15 December 2009, 16 September 2009, 15 June 2009, 12 March 2009, 15 December 2008, 15 September 2008, 12 June 2008, 13 March 2008, 12 December 2007, 17 September 2007, 21 June 2007, 24 May 2007, 22 March 2007, 16 January 2007, 11 December 2006, 11 September 2006, 12 June 2006, 13 March 2006.

Further reports dated 12 December 2005, 10 October 2005 and 16 June 2005 include the number of individuals subject to a control order but do not include the number of foreign nationals. The number of foreign nationals in these reports is seven, two and 11 respectively.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals are subject to a control order. [5075]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary reports to Parliament on the exercise of her powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 on a quarterly basis and additionally on an ad hoc basis if required.

These reports include the number of individuals subject to a control order. I refer my hon. Friend to the most recent such report, published on 21 June 2010, which indicates that as of 10 June 2010, the last date covered by the report, there were 12 control orders in force.

These reports give as much information as we can provide about controlled individuals, given the national security sensitivities of these cases, and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to an anonymity order.

Counter-terrorism: Birmingham

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place for the sharing of information gathered from monitoring undertaken under Project Champion in Birmingham, Hall Green constituency. [3814]

Nick Herbert: The system design for Project Champion will ensure that all data from ANPR cameras are presented, as is the case with other existing ANPR provision, to the West Midlands Police back-office-facility for onward transmission to the ANPR National Data Centre.

As such, only police officers and police support officers will have access to the data which, as "personal data" are defined by Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and must be compliant with the principles of DPA and conform to existing force policy. De-personalised data will be shared under existing Safer Birmingham Partnership (SBP) information sharing protocols

The system design for Project Champion will ensure that CCTV imagery data will be dealt with in accordance with existing force policy, including an information sharing protocol. Data would be shared with existing local authority CCTV monitoring arrangements in accordance with existing force policy. Additionally, viewing capability is planned to be provided to local policing (via Birmingham East LPU Contact Centre at Stechford Police Station) and to the Counter Terrorism Unit.

Departmental Legislation

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department are working on the Identity Documents Bill; and how many are working on preparations for *(a)* the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill and *(b)* the Freedom (Great Repeal) Bill. [5118]

Damian Green: The Identity Documents Bill is managed by a Bill manager who engages as and when required with colleagues across the Identity and Passport Service.

There are currently two people working full-time on the Bill management of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. There are also a number of policy officials and legal advisors contributing to various aspects of the Bill.

A number of officials in the Home Office and other Government Departments are providing advice on a range of policy options for possible inclusion in the Freedom Bill. The exact content of the Bill will be announced in due course and, until this has been determined, it is not possible to know how many officials will be involved in preparation of the Bill.

Scrapping the ID cards scheme will result in net savings of £86 million over the next four years.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the revenue cost of each project sponsored by her Department under the private finance initiative over the lifetime of the project. [1825]

Nick Herbert: The estimated cost of each PFI project sponsored by the Home Department over the lifetime of the project is as follows:

Commissioning body	*Project name*	*Estimated cost over lifetime of project (£ million)*
Cheshire Police Authority	Centralised Custody Suites	185.62
Cheshire Police Authority	Force HQ	159.44
Cleveland Police	Rationalised Custody	128.44
Cleveland Police and Durham Constabulary	Firearms Facility	34.43
Cumbria Constabulary	Workington Police Station	25.18
Derbyshire Police	Divisional HQ	116.27
Derbyshire Police	Ilkeston Police Station	14.16
Dorset Police	Joint Emergency Services Project	171.28
Dorset Police	Regional HQ and City Police Stations	92.62
Dyfed Powys Police Authority	Ammanford Police Station	19.18
Gloucestershire Constabulary	Force HQ	87.99
Greater Manchester	Property Review—Divisional/Sub Divisional HQ and Police Stations	290.17
Gwent Police	Tstrad Mynach Police Station	30.32
Home Office	Home Office Central London Accommodation Strategy	1,406.55
Home Office	IT2000	610.05
Kent Constabulary	Medway	86.92
Kent Police	North Kent PFI Project	71.52
North Wales	Divisional HQ	70.71
Norfolk Police Constabulary	HQ, Operations and Communications Centre	153.93
Northumbria Police	Mounted Facilities	4.13
Nottinghamshire Police	Traffic Wing and Vehicles Services	78.32
Sussex Police Authority	Centralised Custody Suites	270.04
Thames Valley Police	Abingdon Area DHQ	50.39
Wiltshire Police	Air Support	6.07
Wiltshire Police	HQ	72.58

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3642]

Nick Herbert: Work is currently under way in the Home Office led by our Commercial Department to manage the process of reviewing contracts with suppliers. Identification of the contracts for review has not yet been finalised.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to her Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure her Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3664]

Nick Herbert: Work is currently under way in the Home Office led by our Commercial Department to manage the process of any contract re-negotiation. The savings are, therefore, subject to commercial negotiation.

Such negotiations will be undertaken by existing officials and it is difficult to quantify how much expenditure will be incurred, if any. Eventual costs and charges will be included in the final net savings and reported accordingly.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of proposed deportation extradition or other transfer of foreign nationals from the UK have been stopped by the UK court or her Department wholly or partially on *(a)* any legal ground, *(b)* human rights grounds relying on Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), *(c)* human rights grounds relying on Article 8 of the ECHR and *(d)* human rights grounds relying on both Article 3 and Article 8 of the ECHR. [5003]

Damian Green: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency indicated in her letter to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 October 2009 that management information in this area is particularly complex.

In order to provide a breakdown of specific reasons for deportation not to be pursued against a foreign national prisoner either at initial decision stage or following a successful appeal can only be obtained by investigating individual case-files which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who are in prison or who have been convicted of a criminal offence but are not serving a custodial sentence are the subject of proceedings for deportation, extradition or other transfer to their country of nationality. [5004]

Damian Green: According to Ministry of Justice figures on 31 March 2010, there were 11,400 foreign nationals within the prison population (including those in the immigration removal centres Dover, Hasiar and Lindholme). This figure includes those held on remand, serving a custodial sentence (time-serving) and those held under immigration law (time-served). Foreign national prisoners will at some point during their sentence be considered for deportation against the following criteria:

A court recommendation;

For non-EEA nationals-a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (an offence other than possession only);

For EEA nationals - a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

There was a monthly average in 2009 of 550 time-served foreign national offenders detained in prisons who the UKBA was seeking deportation against.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) with which countries the UK has a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the return of foreign nationals without the risk of torture or other inhuman and degrading treatment; [5007]

(2) with which countries the Government is negotiating with a view to signing a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the return of foreign nationals without the risk of torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment. [5008]

Damian Green: The UK has signed Memoranda of Understanding with Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon and Libya which set out in general terms the manner in which an individual deported to or from the UK and one of those countries under the terms of those Memoranda will be treated. Similar arrangements, which were set out in an exchange of letters between the then Prime Minister and the President of Algeria in July 2006, apply in respect of deportations from the UK to that country. The texts of these Memoranda and of the exchange of letters are available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/counter-terrorism/targetting-terrorism

We have made it clear that we intend to extend the practice of seeking assurances to more countries, but it would not be appropriate to identify the countries concerned until negotiations have been successfully concluded.

DNA: Databases

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of *(a)* homicide, *(b)* rape, *(c)* sexual assault and *(d)* serious violence which took place in 2008-09 a sample from the DNA database of an individual who had previously been arrested but not charged with an offence was used in evidence. [1604]

Mrs May: DNA profiles on the National DNA Database are used to match against material taken from crime scenes. Any such match is used as a tool to direct an integrated criminal investigation, and all the normal investigative tools are used in building a case to the point where it is put before the courts.

We do not hold centrally the number of DNA profiles from the Database used in evidence to secure a conviction. During 2008-9, there were four convictions for rape in which Senior Investigating Officers reported Database matches with unconvicted individuals that were of direct and specific value to the investigations. It is not possible to identify from the material held centrally the weight of other evidence available in these cases.

No such reports were received in the other categories of case.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas students were awaiting a decision on their application for a visa to study in the UK at the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [5143]

Damian Green: Our records show that, as of 31 March 2010, there were 28,610 student visa applicants who were awaiting a decision on their applications.

This information is based on management information and as such has not been quality assured. It is provisional and subject to change.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the terms of reference are of the ministerial review of the points-based immigration system rules applied to visa application forms for overseas students wishing to study in the UK. [5145]

Damian Green: As the Home Secretary has indicated, the Government will be reviewing the non-economic immigration routes with a view to bringing forward proposals for parliamentary consideration in due course. I intend to undertake a thorough evaluation of the student system. The aim of that work will be to ensure that the right balance is struck between providing a user-friendly route for bona fide students and education providers and keeping out those who would seek to abuse the student system. The work will also take into account the Government's overall objective to reduce net migration to the tens of thousands by the end of the parliamentary term.

Identity Cards

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity cards have been provided free of charge under the provisions of the Identity Cards Act 2006. [5575]

Damian Green: Under the Identity Cards Act 2006, a provision was made for the issuance of identity cards to airside workers at no cost to the applicant. Across the two airports, 2,928 cards were issued.

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity cards have been provided to employees of *(a)* Manchester Airport Group, *(b)* London City Airport Group, *(c)* her Department and *(d)* other Government Departments. [5582]

Damian Green: The information is as follows:

(a) IPS has issued 2,426 cards to employees of the Manchester Airport Group.

(b) IPS has issued 502 cards to employees of the London City Airport Group.

(c and d) Information held on the NIR does not include the occupation of the individual.

Immigration Act 1971

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been under sections (i) 5(1), (ii) 5(2), (iii) 5(3), and (iv) 20(1)(d) of the Immigration Act 1971 in each of the last 10 years. [5377]

Damian Green: Section five of the Immigration Act 1971 relates to the "procedure for, and further provision as to, deportation" not prosecutions or convictions. There is no section 20(1)(d) within the Act.

Immigration Controls

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for an annual limit on the number of immigrants to the UK. [4924]

Damian Green: On 28 June the Government launched a 12 week consultation with businesses and other interested sectors on our plans for implementing annual limits on non-EU economic migration. At the same time, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee to advise the Government on the level at which the first annual limit should be set. In order to prevent a surge of applications while we consult, we introduced an interim limit on the General routes of Tiers one and two of the Points Based System and raised the pass mark for all new Tier one (General) applicants to ensure that those coming through the route are the most valuable to the UK.

Immigration Controls: English Language

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what documents people making immigration applications as spouses and partners will be required to show to demonstrate that they have reached the A1 standard in the English language *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* when applying for entry clearance abroad. [4803]

Damian Green: On 9 June, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as either a spouse or civil partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

Spouses and partners both in the UK and when applying for entry clearance abroad will need to demonstrate competence in English language speaking and listening at a basic level (Common European Framework of Reference, level A1). A spouse or partner will need to provide evidence to the UK Border Agency with their visa application that they have passed an English language test to this standard with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers. Details of acceptable qualifications, approved test providers and documentary evidence to be submitted with an application will be published on the UK Border Agency website at the earliest opportunity.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the adequacy of teaching and examination facilities for the English language A1 standard examination for immigration purposes; what discussions she has had on the subject; and if she will make a statement. [4804]

Damian Green: The Government have received no formal representations on the adequacy of teaching and examination facilities for the A1 standard English language examination for immigration purposes.

Immigration: Hungary

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect on levels of inward migration to the UK of the decision of the Hungarian government to grant Hungarian citizenship to ethnic Hungarians in non-EU states. [5240]

Damian Green: No assessment has been made to date, but the UK Border Agency will continue to monitor closely any significant changes in numbers of individuals registering on the Worker Registration Scheme for workers from the A8 countries that acceded to the EU in 2004, or applying for EEA residence documentation.

National Referral Mechanism

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism to date; and how many such people were subsequently indentified as victims of human trafficking. [4765]

Nick Herbert: National Referral Mechanism statistics are published quarterly on the SOCA website:

www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/statistical-data

Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010, 706 individuals have been referred into the National Referral Mechanism. The breakdown of reasonable grounds decisions are as follows:

	Number
Accepted	358
Not accepted	192
Reconsideration—accepted	3
Suspended	8
Withdrawn	23
No decision recorded	122
Total	706

'Suspended' cases are where the individual has either absconded or is missing prior to the reasonable grounds decision being made.

'Withdrawn' are cases where the individual no longer consents to the case being considered under the NRM or where the individual has left the UK prior to the reasonable grounds decision being made.

'No decision recorded' means the decision has not been officially logged with UKHTC. In most instances this is where the reasonable grounds decision is still being considered.

'Reconsideration—accepted' is where a negative decision has been reviewed and reversed. In most cases this is where new information has come to light.

Passports: Biometrics

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to announce the outcome of commercial negotiations with suppliers of second generation biometric passport technology; and what estimate she has made of the likely cost to the public purse of the termination of such contracts. [4614]

Mrs May: Commercial negotiations with suppliers whose contracts are affected by the decision to halt second generation biometric passports are ongoing and are currently planned to conclude by end-July 2010.

We do not expect to terminate any contracts as a result of the decision to halt second biometric passports, but we do expect this to result in net savings to the exchequer of approximately £134 million over the period 2010-11 to 2013-14.

Costs and savings specific to existing contracts remain the subject of commercial negotiation and to protect the taxpayers' interests will not be released until negotiations are complete.

Police Community Support Officers

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to increase the powers and responsibilities of Police Community Support Officers. [4199]

Nick Herbert: The Government recognise and value the role that police community support officers (PCSOs) play in neighbourhood policing. We do not believe that the powers of PCSOs should be further increased, not least because their purpose is to spend more time in communities. It is important that PCSOs have the right set of powers to meet their responsibilities; some of these are standard and some of these are discretionary. It is a matter for forces to determine the deployment of PCSOs and the discretionary powers granted to them.

Police: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on proposals to increase police numbers in Ashfield constituency. [4291]

Nick Herbert: None. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff in Ashfield are a matter for the chief constable and police authority for Nottinghamshire.

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers Nottingham Constabulary has assigned to Ashfield constituency; and what estimate she has made of the number of each to be assigned there in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2015. [4582]

Nick Herbert: Police personnel statistics are not collected by the Home Office by parliamentary constituency. Ashfield constituency is in the 'City of Nottingham' Basic Command Unit (BCU) (Area A).

Latest available data show that there were 301 police officers in Nottinghamshire BCU area A and 44 police community support officers as at 31 March 2009.

The estimate of the number of police officers and police community support officers Nottingham Constabulary will assign to Ashfield constituency in 2011 and 2015 is not available centrally. These decisions are made by the Chief Constable.

Police: Bureaucracy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the average annual amount of time taken by police officers on administrative tasks. [4587]

Nick Herbert: I refer my hon. Friend to my written answer given on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 149W.

Police: Elections

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice she has received from chief constables and other senior police officers on her plans to introduce elected police commissioners. [5263]

Nick Herbert: A number of constructive meetings have already taken place with the leadership of the service, giving both chief constables and the Government opportunities to set out their priorities for the development of the policy on directly elected individuals, including meetings between chief constables, the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary on 21 June, and the recent ACPO/APA conference (the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities).

We will continue to seek input from policing professionals before the introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

Police: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there are in (i) Stockport and (ii) Tameside; and how many she expects to be assigned there in (A) 2011 and (B) 2015. [5002]

Nick Herbert: Latest available data, as at 31 Match 2009, show that in Stockport Basic Command Unit (BCU) there were 489 police officers and 55 police community support officers, while in Tameside BCU there were 428 police officers and 44 police community support officers.

The estimate of the number of police officers and police community support officers in 2011 and 2015 is not available centrally. These decisions are made by the Chief Constable of the police force.

Police: Jet Skis

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many jet-skis are in use by police forces in England and Wales; how much was spent by each police force on purchasing jet-skis in each of the last two years; for what purpose jet-skis are used by police; who is authorised to operate them; and if she will make a statement. [4302]

Nick Herbert: This information is not held centrally as the purchase and operational use of equipment of this nature is a matter for each individual police force.

Police: Television

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides to the police on participation in television documentaries; and what her policy is on remuneration of police forces for their participation in such documentaries. [4524]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not issue guidance on such matters. The participation in television documentaries and policy on remuneration for participating in such documentaries is a matter for the chief constable in each police force.

Police: VAT

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the change in the amount of value added tax police forces in England and Wales will be required to pay in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; [4564]

(2) what estimate she has made of the change in the level of value added tax Essex Policy Authority will be required to pay in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [4567]

Nick Herbert: The liability for value added tax is a matter for each police authority.

Pre-charge Detention

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people suspected of offences related to terrorism were held in pre-charge detention for more than 14 days in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008, *(e)* 2009 and *(f)* 2010 to date. [4897]

Nick Herbert: The data requested for *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009 are available in the statistical bulletin series bulletin Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain the links to which are as follows:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0410.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1010.pdf

Data from 2010 are not yet available.

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people suspected of committing offences relating to terrorism have been held for 28 days in pre-charge detention and subsequently convicted of the offence for which they were detained. [illegible]

Nick Herbert: Since July 2006, no individuals have been held for the full 28 days pre-charge detention period. However, two individuals who were arrested under section 41 TACT 2000 and subsequently charged and convicted of terrorism related offences were charged on the 27-28 day of detention following their arrest in a counter terrorist operation led by Greater Manchester Police.

Special Constables

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future numbers of special constables; and if she will make a statement. [5370]

Nick Herbert: The Special Constabulary is an important and cost-effective resource in policing. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is committed to supporting the Special Constabulary and increasing its numbers across England and Wales. As part of this the NPIA created nine regional coordinator posts to help police forces increase numbers and improve retention rates. In particular, they are working in partnership with police forces to develop effective marketing and recruitment strategies and to implement the National Strategy for the Special Constabulary. This aims to make the management of the recruitment process easier for police forces. Work is also ongoing to engage employers support to enable their staff to volunteer as special constables.

DEFENCE

Portsmouth: Frigates

18. **Oliver Colvile:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the previous administration's decision to baseport frigates at Portsmouth; and if he will make a statement. [5322]

Peter Luff: On 6 May 2009, the previous Government announced that, subject to main investment decisions to be made early in this decade, the most complex variant of the Future Surface Combatant, the Type 26 Combat Ship, would be base-ported in Portsmouth.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review will review all major equipment and support contracts as well as the defence estate, to ensure the future programme is affordable and coherent with future defence needs.

Employment: Scotland

19. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of jobs in the defence sector in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [5323]

Nick Harvey: In 2008-09 the Ministry of Defence directly employed approximately 17,900 people in Scotland, including service personnel and civil servants. We do not currently estimate the number of jobs dependent on broader Defence expenditure in any particular nation or region of the UK; the last available estimate for Scotland was for 2007-08 and was some 6,000 jobs.

Afghanistan

20. **Geoffrey Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [5324]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Hendon (Mr Offord).

Homelessness

21. **Dr Huppert:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on reducing the level of homelessness among former members of the armed forces. [5325]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence works closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government, devolved authorities, other Government Departments, ex-service organisations and other service providers to ensure a co-ordinated and structured approach to the issue of homelessness among former members of the armed forces. Our aim is to prevent new service leavers becoming homeless and to provide an effective safety net for those ex-service personnel who find themselves in that position.

Measures have been introduced making it easier for former service personnel to access social housing, become home owners and occupy void MOD properties as an interim measure after leaving the services.

I attended the first cross-Government Ministerial Working Group. This committee will agree priorities and review progress made in tackling and preventing homelessness.

Procurement

22. **Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to procure defence equipment from British-based companies. [5326]

Peter Luff: Our duty is to provide the armed forces with the equipment they require, when they need it, at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer. In the majority of cases, competition on the global market (in which British companies more than hold their own), is the best way to achieve their goal.

However, following the Strategic Defence Security Review, a new defence industrial strategy will outline the sovereign capabilities that should be retained in the United Kingdom.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Snatch Vixen and *(b)* Snatch Land Rover vehicles are in use in Afghanistan. [5033]

Peter Luff: Snatch 2a, Snatch Vixen and Snatch Vixen Plus are currently deployed in Afghanistan. Of these, Snatch 2a and Snatch Vixen are used only inside base locations. Snatch 2a is in the process of being withdrawn from Afghanistan.

I am withholding the information on the number of vehicles deployed in Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces Bill

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's officials are working on preparations for the Armed Forces Bill. [5026]

Mr Robathan: The Armed Forces Bill Team comprises four Service officers and two civilian officials who, together with legal advisers and policy staff elsewhere in the Department, are working on preparations for the forthcoming Bill.

Army: York

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the Army's website gave to the presentation of new colours to (i) the Yorksire Regiment on 18 June 2010 and (ii) the subsequent parade in York on 19 June 2010. [5201]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence featured both events on the Army's website. The announcement that the Yorkshire Regiment was to be presented with new Regimental Colours can be viewed at the following link:

http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/19521.aspx

The Regiment's York parade can be viewed at:

http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/20418.aspx

This includes details of the day as well as ten images of the event.

Reports and photographs from the events were also included in the Army's website 'Regimental News' section at the following link:

http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/10160.aspx

There was no separate coverage on the MOD website www.mod.uk, which does, however, feature a prominent link to the Army website.

Defence

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable he has set for completion of the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and if he will make a statement. [5310]

Dr Fox: The Government expect the Strategic Defence and Security Review to report in the autumn, alongside the new National Security Strategy. This will coincide with the outcome of the Government's Spending Review.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 501W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier was in respect of the mobile devices issued to (i) the Secretary of State and (ii) the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology. [4067]

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 501W, on departmental mobile telephones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is in respect of the (i) mobile telephone issued to the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology and (ii) the BlackBerry device issued to the Secretary of State. [4690]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* The handsets for the Secretary of State for Defence and the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology were provided at no additional purchase cost as part of the Ministry of Defence's corporate contract with its network provider Vodafone, which is part of the Defence Fixed Telecommunications Service Agreement with British Telecom. The Secretary of State's BlackBerry is on the BlackBerry Enterprise tariff; the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology's Nokia mobile handset is on the network tariff. Both tariffs are monthly with call charges additional and variable depending on the nature and duration of each call.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which 150 social housing developments are under review, broken down by local authority area; [5222]

(2) what housing developments funded through the National Affordable Housing Programme are to be cancelled, broken down by local authority area; [5227]

(3) what housing and local government projects are under review, broken down by local authority area. [5226]

Grant Shapps: The Government remain committed to the provision of new affordable housing and have secured an additional £560 million for affordable housing and other housing programmes in 2010-11. This includes £390 million additional funding announced today—which means a further 4,500 social rented homes, over 3,000 homes for sale at affordable prices and 1,000 homes stalled by the recession. This is on top of the £170 million made available by the coalition Government on 24 May, which will protect delivery of 4,000 new social homes.

The coalition Government nevertheless remain strongly committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit—the Government's announcement on 24 May set out immediate savings of over £6 billion. The Chief Secretary has also announced today that Departments have agreed to reductions totalling £1.5 billion amongst a range of spending commitments planned by the previous administration but where the funding was reliant on underspending across Government through the End Year Flexibility system. The £1.5 billion savings includes £220 million of the £780 million housing funding planned by the previous administration. As the Chief Secretary says in his statement, without this remedial action Government borrowing would have been higher this year.

It is likely a number of housing projects will be affected by the need to find these £220 million savings. To date, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has been holding back from making any new commitments in 2010-11 until the position on funding could be finalised. Now that the funding position has been confirmed, the HCA will fully review the impact of any changes on its investment programmes, and will then contact affected schemes to advise them. The HCA will also publish a list of the confirmed schemes. Throughout 2010-11, the agency will continue to publish on its website the quarterly regional investment statements, detailing all allocations to the National Affordable Housing Programme.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 29W, on affordable housing: construction, if he will take steps to protect the interests of those with exceptional housing needs in cases where neighbourhoods determine that these needs should not be met. [5657]

Andrew Stunell: I refer the hon. Member back to the answer that he was given on 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 29W. A statement on the consolidated national planning framework will be made to Parliament in due course.

Council Housing: Construction

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the council houses authorised by the previous administration for construction in 2010-11 *(a)* have been started, *(b)* have been completed and *(c)* are being planned. [5394]

Andrew Stunell: Work started on 2,068 units under the Local Authority New Build programme in 2009-10; none was completed in 2009-10. Figures for 2010-11 are not yet available, but Grant Agreements are in place to deliver just over 1,000 more.

Council Housing: Finance

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to permit local authorities which retain their housing stock to retain *(a)* rent revenues and *(b)* Right to Buy proceeds from that stock for the purposes of funding regeneration or new build projects. [5395]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are committed to reviewing the unfair Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. As part of this review we will consider responses to the consultation on a devolved council housing finance system that closed on 6 July. The consultation included proposals for local authorities to retain rents and right to buy receipts.

Departmental Flags

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of decorating his Department's building with England flags during the Football World cup. [5508]

Grant Shapps: Approximately £30.

The new Government believe Government Departments and councils should do their bit to help reclaim the English flag as a proud symbol of our nation's identity.

We believe the expenditure of £30 on English flags represents significantly better value for money than the £134,503 spent last year buying luxury Parisian sofas for the Department.

Government Office for the North West: Finance

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget is of the Government Office for the North West for 2010-11. [5872]

Robert Neill: The 2010-11 running cost budget for the Government office for the north-west is £9,009,690.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were provided with assistance in finding or retaining accommodation as an alternative to making a homelessness application in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in England in the last 12 months. [5397]

Grant Shapps: Homelessness prevention means providing people with the ways and means to address their housing and other needs and avoid homelessness. Homelessness relief is where an authority has been unable to prevent homelessness but helps someone to secure accommodation, even though the authority is under no statutory obligation to do so.

The number of cases of homelessness prevention and relief taking place outside the statutory framework in England in 2008/09 is published on the Communities and Local Government website in the statistical release Homelessness Prevention and Relief: England 2008/09 Experimental Statistics. A link to this release is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention200809

A table giving local authority figures on cases of homelessness prevention and relief has been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Asbestos

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of homes in the West Midlands which contain asbestos. [5524]

Andrew Stunell: No estimate of the number of homes in the West Midlands that contain asbestos has been made by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

However, in July 2009 in relation to maintaining public sector stock in a decent condition beyond 2010, as part of the review of the major repairs allowance the Department published the estimate of the number of local authority homes in England containing untreated asbestos at 69,761. This report is available for download from:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/repairsallowancereview

Housing: Construction

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a decision on Kickstart funding for new homes on the Clapham Park Estate shortlisted for funding under round two of the scheme. [5651]

Andrew Stunell: The announcement on 24 May set out the immediate savings of over £6 billion that needed to be made as down-payment on the public deficit. A full review of outstanding Kickstart projects will be undertaken by the HCA, once the final funding position for 2010-11 is clear.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the Kickstart housing delivery programme. [5653]

Andrew Stunell: Decisions on future levels of funding for affordable housing will be made in the spending review.

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether district councils which meet the criteria for Government incentives to build houses may retain the *(a)* full and *(b)* district council element of council tax on those houses. [5993]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement set out our clear intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including new homes and business. I will set out further details of the timetable for introducing incentives in due course.

Local Government Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to initiate a review of the local government finance formula. [5953]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Esher and Walton (Mr Raab) on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 448-50.

Local Government Finance: Wigan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects in the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan that were previously earmarked for capital grant will now be subject to the removal of ring-fencing in 2010-11. [5219]

Robert Neill: The coalition Government are committed to providing a shift of power from Westminster to individuals and their communities. As part of the devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local authorities to meet that aim, we announced on 10 June a number of capital grants to local authorities which now have their ring fence removed.

The capital grants which have been de-ringfenced are shown in the following table.

Wigan council is free to decide how to use the money received from un-ringfenced grants to fund local priorities. Funding for specific local projects is for Wigan council to determine.

Capital grant	*Government Department*
Fair Play Pathfinders	DFE
Fair Play Playbuilders	DFE
Innovation in Extracare Housing Grant	DH
Capital Investment for Transformation in Adult Social Care Grant	DH
AIDS/HIV	DH
Common Assessment Framework	DH
Social Care IT Infrastructure	DH
Detrunking	DFT
Major Projects	DFT
NEXUS (Tyne and Wear Metro)	DFT
Green Bus Fund	DFT
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	DEFRA
Coastal Change Pathfinders	DEFRA
Contaminated Land	DEFRA
Housing Market Renewal	CLG

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what capital projects in the metropolitan borough of Wigan funding has been agreed by his Department but not yet allocated; [5220]

(2) what projects his Department plans to fund in the metropolitan borough of Wigan; and which are currently under review. [5225]

Grant Shapps: The coalition Government are committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit. It has led us to identify savings across Government, starting with the £6 billion of immediate savings announced on 24 May. The Government are also re-assessing spending approvals granted between 1 January 2010 and the general election to ensure that they offer good value for money and are consistent with the Government's priorities. Further announcements will be made by the end of July.

Local Government: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the future of the *(a)* Manchester City-Region pilot scheme and *(b)* proposals for a Combined Authority for Greater Manchester. [5619]

Robert Neill: We welcome Manchester's strong ambitions for delivering economic success and expect it to continue to be a key driver of national growth. We will want to work closely with Manchester to ensure that it has the freedoms and tools to deliver on its economic ambitions. We have recently written to local authorities and business inviting them to come together to form local enterprise partnerships. We will consider Manchester's proposal for a combined authority once consultation has ended and in the light of their proposals on local enterprise partnerships.

Local Government: Information Officers

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost was of communications staff in local government in *(a)* financial year 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent financial year for which figures are available. [5761]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local Government: Manpower

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with representatives of local authorities on the effects on levels of employment in local government of likely reductions in central Government funding to local authorities. [5675]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with representatives of local government. These discussions cover a range of matters pertaining to councils and their work forces.

Mayors: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he plans to introduce elected mayors at the district level across Greater Manchester; [5673]

(2) whether he plans to introduce a city regional mayoral system in greater Manchester. [5704]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Nottingham East (Chris Leslie) on 9 June, *Official Report*, column 174W.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many landlords have been prosecuted under legislative provisions governing the operation of houses in multiple occupation in each of the last five years. [5049]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held centrally.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation governing houses in multiple occupation in *(a)* protecting the rights of tenants in such houses and *(b)* raising housing standards. [5050]

Andrew Stunell: Communities and Local Government published the BRE report on local authority implementation of the HMO licensing provisions on 27 January 2010. The review looked at the practical implications and the impact of HMO legislation. A copy of the report is available via the CLG website.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hmoimpactevaluation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment his Department has made of the views of tenants in houses in multiple occupation on the implementation of legislation governing such properties. [5051]

Andrew Stunell: The Department has not carried out an assessment of the views of tenants in houses in multiple occupation. Local authorities are however required to consult all interested parties, including tenants, on proposals to introduce additional HMO licensing schemes in their area. The local authority must also consider and respond to the views of all affected persons.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change the law relating to houses in multiple occupation. [5374]

Andrew Stunell: We have recently announced our intention to amend the planning legislation for houses in multiple occupation (HMO). Details of our proposals can be found in the written ministerial statement issued on 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 54WS.

We however have no plans to amend the HMO licensing provisions in the Housing Act 2004. Local authorities were granted a general consent on 1 April 2010, to introduce discretionary licensing schemes in their areas without having to first seek approval from the Department. We believe that it is right for these local decisions to be made by those who are directly accountable to local communities.

Planning Permission: Blackpool

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration he gave to the provisions of Blackpool's local plan in his decision not to call in for determination the development application to Blackpool borough council (No. 09/0740). [6027]

Robert Neill: The considerations given to this development application were based upon the adopted Local Plan for Blackpool, having regard to the need to employ a sequential site approach to housing provision, i.e. brownfield land first, the housing requirement for Blackpool, along with the other existing and emerging plans and strategies, among them the Local Development Framework Draft Core Strategy Preferred Option

Document. Consideration was also given to the question of prematurity in relation to Planning Policy Statements PPS1 and PPS3.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what aspects of the development application to Blackpool borough council (No. 09/0740) were relevant to his assessment of policies Planning Policy Statement 1, Planning Policy Statement 3, Planning Policy Statement 9, Planning Policy Guidance 13 and Planning Policy Guidance 17 as the main matters relevant to his decision whether or not to call in the application for determination. [6028]

Robert Neill: These matters were initially considered in detail and assessed by Blackpool council, as local planning authority. The case was referred to the Secretary of State for consideration on whether or not he should call the application in for his own determination. In this context the relevant issues which this proposal raised, along with the representations made, were considered and assessed in relation to the national planning policies to which you refer. I have previously outlined the issues considered in relation to Planning Policy Statement 1, Planning Policy Statement 9, Planning Policy Guidance 13 and Planning Policy Guidance 17. On Planning Policy Statement 3, growth point status; development proposed around the "M55 Hub"; the council's assessment of its five-year supply of housing land; the availability and considerations of suitable alternative brownfield sites; the density of dwellings on site; and affordable housing provision were all considered.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the abolition of regional spatial strategies on the outcomes of the development application to Blackpool borough council (No. 09/0740); and if he will make a statement. [6029]

Robert Neill: None. Once the Secretary of State gave his decision not to call in this application he has no further jurisdiction on this matter. Blackpool council was initially responsible for assessing and achieving the housing provision set out in the regional spatial strategy (RSS). Following the recent announcement regarding the abolition of RSS, it remains a matter for the council to assess how to meet its housing needs based upon a robust assessment of need within its area. Abolition of the housing figures in RSS will give the council responsibility for determining numbers, based on the evidence available to them.

Trade Unions

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many paid officials in his Department are full-time trade union officials; and what the *(a)* salary and *(b)* expenses entitlement of each is. [5053]

Robert Neill: There are five paid officials in the Department who are engaged full-time on trade union activity and four further part-time officials for whom costs are met centrally. Two full-time and two part-time officials are employed within the main Department, two full-time in the Government Office Network and one full-time and one part-time in the Planning Inspectorate.

The aggregate cost of this provision was £245,644 (excluding Planning Inspectorate) in the financial year 2008-09 and £237,325 (including the Planning Inspectorate) in the financial year 2009-10.

In addition, as members of this Department, these officials are entitled to claim business related expenditure under the same rules governing expenses as all other employees.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that the views of residents in areas affected by proposed wind farms are taken into account in determining planning applications for such wind farms. [5369]

Greg Clark: The views of local residents on the planning issues affecting their community should be taken into account when planning applications are determined. We are radically reforming the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live.

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discussions he has had with his departmental officials on proposals to introduce a minimum separation distance between large wind turbines and occupied dwellings; and if he will make a statement; [5664]

(2) whether he plans to bring forward measures to introduce a minimum separation distance between large wind turbines and occupied dwellings; and if he will make a statement. [5665]

Greg Clark: My Department has received representations on this issue. Policy on separation distances is set out in the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood (Eric Ollerenshaw) on 30 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 587W, and in the answer my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change gave in the House to the hon. Member for Bolsover (Mr Skinner) on 1 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 995.

TREASURY

Benefits: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the measures in the 2010 Budget on those resident in Denton and Reddish who are in receipt of tax credits; [5001]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the measures in the 2010 Budget on those resident in Denton and Reddish who are in receipt of child benefit. [5021]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

The effect of the Budget is modelled based on data from the Family Resources Survey, which do not contain a large enough sample to produce results at a constituency level.

Business Services Association

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials within his Department have met the Business Services Association since he took office. [5212]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials regularly hold meetings with businesses and business representative bodies as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Governments, the Government do not disclose the outcome or results of all such meetings and discussions.

Capital Gains Tax

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the additional revenue that would be generated in one year if capital gains tax were set at *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 35 per cent., *(c)* 40 per cent., *(d)* 45 per cent., *(e)* 50 per cent. and *(f)* 28 per cent. [4834]

Mr Gauke: The policy costings document published alongside the 2010 Emergency Budget Book sets out the methodology for arriving at such estimates and the likely effects on revenue. This document is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the total revenue generated by capital gains tax was paid by those who pay income tax at the *(a)* basic and *(b)* higher rate in the latest period for which figures are available. [4835]

Mr Gauke: Indicative proportions of capital gains tax accrued by basic and higher rate income tax payers are shown in National Statistics Table 14.3 on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/table14-3.pdf

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in line with what measure of the rate of inflation the annual exempt amount for capital gains tax will rise. [4836]

Mr Gauke: The Annual Exempt Amount for Capital Gains Tax continues to increase each year in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) measure of inflation. As announced at the Budget, the Government are reviewing how the Consumer Price Index can be used for the indexation of taxes and duties while protecting revenues.

Child Benefit

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average real terms change per child in 2010 prices of freezing child benefit payments in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [4652]

Justine Greening: The following table shows the estimated average change per week per child as a result of freezing the rates of child benefit for the next three years rather than uprating by the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

These estimates are based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's latest projections of CPI.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Forecast change 1st child (£)	-0.60	-1.15	-1.55	-1.60
Forecast change subsequent child (£)	-0.40	-0.75	-1.00	-1.05

To ensure support is better targeted at low-income families with children, the savings from the freeze in child benefit have been recycled into significant increases to the child tax credit. The child element of the child tax credit will be increased by £150 above indexation in 2011-12 and £60 above indexation in 2012-13. As a result of this, the Budget will have no measurable negative impact on child poverty over the next two years.

Child Tax Credit

Liz Kendall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households with annual incomes of over *(a)* £20,000, *(b)* £25,000 and *(c)* over £35,000 are in receipt of child tax credits in (i) England, (ii) Leicester and (iii) Leicester West constituency. [6025]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of households benefiting from tax credits by income

	Number of families by income		
	England	*Leicester*	*Leicester West*
£20,000-£25,000	422,345	2,635	700
£25,000-£35,000	956,300	4,430	1,325
Over £35 000	1,054,815	2,870	1,330

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about these data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Departmental Manpower

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers are employed by his Department at each Civil Service pay grade. [1251]

Justine Greening: For information on special advisers, I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given by the Prime Minister on 10 June, *Official Report*, columns 32-34WS.

The following numbers are for press officers and are based on FTE figures.

Press officers employed in HM Treasury as at 3 June 2010

HM Treasury pay range	*Civil service payband*	*Press officers (FTE)*
Range D	HEO/SEO	6
Range E	Grade 7/Grade 6	2
Range F	Grade 5	1

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the names are of the special advisers in his Department appointed since 10 June 2010. [5176]

Justine Greening: Since 10 June 2010 Julia Goldsworthy has been appointed as a special adviser to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Housing Benefit

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Financial Statement of 22 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 166-80, what the evidential basis is for his statement that there are some families receiving £104,000 a year in housing benefit. [5703]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The latest information the Department holds is for March 2010, when the maximum local housing allowance rate was £1,800, and shows that there were customers who received this rate. All these customers were located in the central London broad rental market area.

In June 2010 the maximum local housing allowance rate rose to £2,000 a week which would be equivalent to receiving £104,000 a year in housing benefit assuming the individual remains in receipt of the same level of benefit for 52 continuous weeks. Information on housing benefit awards in June will be available in September 2010.

Personal Savings: Children

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans to bring forward proposals to *(a)* encourage and *(b)* provide incentives for children and young people to save; [3232]

(2) what steps he plans to take to provide incentives for those on low incomes to save. [3233]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to creating the conditions to support saving. For individuals and families it wishes to encourage financial responsibility, and saving for retirement, through well targeted and affordable support. The Government are considering the options for achieving this, and will announce their plans in due course.

Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) are the Government's main savings incentive for adults, and over 20 million adults now hold ISAs, including one in five people among low income groups.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Health in Pregnancy grants were made to people in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency in 2009-10. [5278]

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made in West Lancashire constituency in 2009-10. [5633]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Private Sector: Manpower

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of private sector jobs, directly and indirectly, on the reductions in departmental spending announced in the budget. [5270]

Danny Alexander: The OBR released further information on its employment forecast on 30 June 2010. The OBR forecasts show that total employment is expected to rise by 1.3 million by 2015-16.

The OBR forecast release can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

Public Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which ongoing capital projects allocated funding by his Department are under review in each constituency; and what the monetary value is of each such project. [4830]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

The review of Government's Major Projects is currently under way and is due to be completed by 31 July 2010. Once the review is complete and the findings have been analysed I will be in a better position to provide information on this matter.

The projects under consideration include some with major capital spends but these projects tend to be large, complex undertakings that span geographically many parts of the country, and are not linked to any one constituency. For that reason it will not be possible to supply a list of projects with values impacting on individual constituencies.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the distributional effects of the proposed reductions in public expenditure by income decile of the population in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* England and *(f)* each English region in each year from 2010-11 to 2015-16. [4978]

Mr Gauke: The Government set out in its document Spending Review Framework that it will "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7) Further information will be available at the Spending Review.

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Chief Secretary's Statement of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1040-42, which spending commitments for 2010-11 where funding was reliant on underspending are now under review. [5281]

Danny Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I have issued today.

Public Sector: Manpower

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of public sector jobs of the reductions in departmental spending announced in the budget. [5269]

Danny Alexander: The OBR released further information on its employment forecast on 30 June 2010.

The OBR forecast release can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

Research and Development Tax Credit

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 482W, on research and development tax credit: environmental protection, if he will bring forward proposals to amend the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities to identify clean technology as a separate sector. [4619]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning research and development tax credit: environmental protection, if it will be possible to bring forward proposals to amend the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities to identify clean technology as a separate sector. (4619)

The United Kingdom Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activity (UK SIC) is the national version of the European system 'Classification of Economic Activities' in the European Community' (NACE), part of the integrated system of statistical classifications. By an international agreement, the highest levels of NACE (the sections and divisions) are identical to those of the United Nations system 'International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities' (ISIC).

The UK is required by European legislation to revise the UK SIC in parallel with NACE, ensuring that both systems remain identical down to and including the 4 digit class level. A further breakdown of the class level can be provided in certain instances by the addition of a 5 digit (country specific) subclass level. The UK SIC (2007) is currently bound by European legislation (Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006) to be identical with NACE Rev 2, down to and including the 4 digit class level. Changes to UKSIC (2007) above the 5th digit subclass level are therefore not permissible.

Revisions to statistical classification systems are motivated by the need to adapt the classifications to changes in the world economy and must meet the methodological criteria associated with the classification. It is not possible to amend NACE in order to identify 'clean technology' as a separate section as the system classifies economic activities in terms of input-process-output. By applying the criteria described in the NACE methodological guide, the "clean technology" process cannot be distinguished from that of other technology.

The European Community regulation governing NACE is directly applicable to all member states.

The timing of the NACE revision process sits with a committee consisting of delegates form all member states; as yet, no announcement has been made to a possible revision date with regard to NACE Rev2. As a result of the obligations of the NACE Rev2 legislation, is not possible to bring forward a date for the revision of UKSIC (2007).

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to close the loopholes used by stamp duty land tax mitigation schemes. [5464]

Justine Greening: The June 2010 Budget announced that the Government will examine whether changes to the rules on stamp duty land tax on high value property transactions are needed to prevent avoidance in this area.

Mr Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the revenue foregone by the Exchequer consequent on stamp duty land tax mitigation schemes in the latest period for which figures are available. [5465]

Justine Greening: A robust estimate of revenue lost because of stamp duty land tax mitigation schemes will depend upon information now starting to become available through the recent extension of the regime requiring disclosure of such schemes to HMRC.

Taxation: Banks

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned research on the likely effect on the public purse of (i) the banking levy and (ii) the change to the level of corporation tax announced in the 2010 Budget in the next five years. [5576]

Mr Hoban: The estimated impact on the Exchequer of the bank levy and changes to corporation tax, and the analysis underpinning these estimates, are set out in the Budget 2010 policy costings document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on retail banks based in the UK of changes to their taxation arrangements announced in the 2010 Budget in the next five years. [5577]

Mr Hoban: The estimated impacts of the tax changes announced in Budget 2010 are set out in the following Budget 2010 document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Several measures will affect UK retail banks. Most directly, they will be affected by the bank levy and the reduction in corporation tax rates. Separate figures for

UK retail banks have not been produced, although assessments of the impact of the reduction in the main corporation tax rate for the financial sector as a whole are available. I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Holborn and St Pancras (Frank Dobson) on 1 July, *Official Report*, columns 610-11W.

VAT

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the net effect *(a)* in cash terms on and *(b)* as a proportion of the average annual income of (i) the bottom income decile, (ii) the second bottom income decile, (iii) the top income decile, (iv) the second top income decile, (v) pensioner couples, (vi) single pensioners, (vii) couples with children and (viii) single parents with children of an increase of one percentage point in the standard rate of value added tax. [3288]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* In the Emergency Budget the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a 2.5 percentage point increase in the standard rate of value added tax (VAT). Analysis of the impact of indirect taxes, of which VAT is the most significant change, is provided in Annex A of the Red Book on both an income decile and expenditure decile basis. The Office for National Statistics and others have suggested expenditure deciles may better represent a household's expected lifetime income, and therefore better represent the impact of changes in VAT on households. The analysis provided in the Red Book is scalable to give the impact of a one percentage point increase in the main rate of VAT.

For the requested household types, the estimated impact of a one percentage point rise in the standard rate of VAT is:

Household type	*Cash terms (£ per annum)*	*Percentage of net income*
Pensioner couple	110	0.4
Pensioner single	50	0.3
Couple with children	180	0.4
One-parent families	90	0.4

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the number of jobs in the country which will result from his proposal to increase value added tax to 20 per cent. [5271]

Danny Alexander: The OBR forecast that unemployment will come down from 8.1% this year, falling in every year to 6.1% in 2015. In producing its forecasts, the OBR have considered the employment impacts of the announced consolidation as a whole.

VAT: Birmingham

Steve McCabe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department consulted small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* Birmingham, Selly Oak constituency and *(b)* other parts of Birmingham on his proposal to raise value added tax to 20%. [5475]

Mr Gauke: No. Businesses across the UK will benefit from a reduction in the current high levels of public debt which could lead to a loss of market confidence and higher market interest rates, raising the cost of borrowing for families and businesses and discouraging investment and consumer spending. VAT makes an essential contribution to that reduction. Small and medium-sized businesses will also benefit from other announcements in the Budget, including the reduction in the corporation tax rate for smaller companies to 20%.

Steve McCabe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* Birmingham, Selly Oak constituency and *(b)* other parts of Birmingham will be affected by the proposed increase in the rate of value added tax. [5476]

Mr Gauke: All businesses in Selly Oak and Birmingham will benefit from a reduction in the current high levels of public debt which could lead to a loss of market confidence and higher market interest rates, raising the cost of borrowing for families and businesses and discouraging investment and consumer spending. VAT makes an essential contribution to that reduction. Small and medium-sized businesses will also benefit from other announcements in the Budget, including the reduction in the corporation tax rate for smaller companies to 20%.

VAT: Charities

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much value added tax was paid by charities located in *(a)* Wrexham, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK in each of the last three years. [5871]

Mr Gauke: This information is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs cannot accurately pinpoint those VAT registrations belonging to charities and not all charities are registered for VAT. The VAT return does not record input tax incurred by VAT registered charities which they are unable to recover under the normal rules of VAT.

Welfare Tax Credits: Bishop Auckland

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency have an income of over £30,000. [5094]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Families receiving tax credits with an income over £30,000

	Number
Bishop Auckland	2,300
Blackpool North and Fleetwood	2,100

The constituency referred to in the question—Blackpool North and Cleveleys—was formed after April 2010 so the previous boundary of Blackpool North and Fleetwood has been used instead. The information for the new constituency would be available at only disproportionate cost.

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving Tax Credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits have an income of over £30,000 in West Lancashire constituency. [5647]

Mr Gauke: The number of households receiving tax credits with an income over £30,000 in West Lancashire constituency is 2,600.

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about these data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Stirling

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Stirling in the income band *(a)* £10,000 to £20,000, *(b)* £21,000 to £30,000, *(c)* £31,000 to £40,000, *(d)* £41,000 to £50,000, *(e)* £51,000 to £60,000 and *(f)* £60,000 or more are in receipt of tax credits. [5287]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Stirling constituency families in receipt of tax credits by income band

Household income	*Number*
£10,000-£20,000	1,380
£20,000-£30,000	900
£30,000-£40,000	1,060
£40,000-£50,000	740
£50,000+	290

The income bands over £50,000 have been combined because the numbers in the individual categories would be disclosive.

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about these data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

WORK AND PENSIONS

BP: Gulf of Mexico

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on UK pension funds; and if he will make a statement; [5254]

(2) what his estimate is of the financial loss to UK pension funds resulting from BP's decision to suspend its quarterly dividend; and if he will make a statement. [5255]

Steve Webb: Pension funds are well diversified and invest for the long term in a range of assets. However, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will have had a detrimental impact on pension funds due to the fall in the BP share price, the decision by BP to suspend dividend payments and the falls in share prices of other companies operating in the oil and gas sector.

It is not possible with any degree of certainty to isolate the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on financial markets, and therefore on UK pension funds, due to changes in wider economic conditions.

Traditionally, BP is a major source of dividends for investors. Self-administered pension funds received around £60 billion of income in 2009, of which only 15% came from dividend payments. We estimate around 2% of total annual income was attributable to BP dividend payments. Consequently, the decision not to pay further dividends in 2010 should not have a significant impact on pension funds in the long term.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations his Department has received on the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on UK pension funds; whether he plans to review the regulations governing disclosure of information by pension funds in light of any such representations; and if he will make a statement. [5256]

Steve Webb: There has been a number of representations calling for a review of the disclosure of information requirements in the light of the impact of the Deepwater oil spill on UK pension funds. By way of reply, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 182W.

Children: Maintenance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was obtained by *(a)* the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from absent parents who were (i) previously paying nothing and (ii) already making payments for their children in the last 12 months. [3493]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much was obtained by (a) the Child Support Agency and (b) the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from absent parents who were (i) previously paying nothing and (ii) already making payments for their children. [3493]

We contacted your office to clarify your question and following speaking to you we have interpreted your question as: how much was obtained from non-resident parents who (i) paid for the first time within the last 12 months for which data is available, and (ii) paid for the second and subsequent time within the same period.

In the 12 months to March 2010, we collected or arranged £1,141m in child maintenance payments and 769,200 cases paid maintenance at least once during that 12 months.

Of these cases, 113,400 paid maintenance for the first time, 107,800 cases on the CS2 computer system, of which 91,000 cases had outstanding arrears, including 19,900 cases with outstanding arrears of more than 12 months at the time the first payment was secured. Unfortunately, we are not able to link the amount collected to the number of cases that paid maintenance for the first time.

The remaining 655,800 cases which paid in the year had previously made at least one payment for their children, but within this caseload there were 159,100 instances where payments were secured after a break in payment of three months or more. In total 272,500 payments were secured from those who had previously never made payments or had stopped making payments.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5711]

Chris Grayling: The contact addresses for the non-departmental public bodies are as follows:

Non-departmental public body	*Address*
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	PO Box 239, Holbeck, LS1 1EB
Health and Safety Executive	Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 7HS
Independent Living Fund	PO Box 7525, Nottingham, NG2 4ZT
Personal Accounts Delivery Authority	St Dunstan's House, 201-211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JA
Pensions Ombudsman and Pension Protection Fund Ombudsman	11 Belgrave Road, London, SW1V 1RB
Pension Protection Fund	Knollys House, 17 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 6SR
Remploy Limited	18c Meridian East, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1WZ
The Pensions Advisory Service	11 Belgrave Road, London, SW1V 1RB
The Pensions Regulator	Napier House, Trafalgar Place, Brighton, BN1 4DW

The following advisory bodies can be contacted via their secretariats:

Advisory body	
Disability Employment Advisory Committee	DEAC Secretariat, Level 3, Steel City House, West Street, Sheffield, S1 2GQ
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	Zone C Floor 1 Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA
Equality 2025	Office for Disability Issues, Ground Floor, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H9NA
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council	2nd Floor, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H9NA
Social Security Advisory Committee	Level 3 North East Spur, Adelphi, John Adam Street, London, WC2N 6HT

Employment and Support Allowance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 72W, on employment and support allowance (ESA), how many of the 425,770 ESA claimants live *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* in Thirsk and Malton constituency and *(c)* abroad. [5685]

Chris Grayling: The information is set out as follows.

Employment support allowance (ESA) claimants: November 2009

	Total
Great Britain	425,770
Thirsk and Malton parliamentary constituency	360

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA). ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
4. It is not possible to specify exactly the number of abroad cases. However, the total of both invalid and non-British addresses amounts to 200 cases.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Floors: Safety

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the number of workplace accidents caused by slipping, *(b)* the number of days off work, *(c)* the cost in lost production and *(d)* the cost to his Department of sickness and other benefits arising from injuries sustained by slipping in the workplace in the most recent period for which figures are available. [5174]

Chris Grayling: The most recent estimates for 2008-09, in the Health and Safety Executive's Field Operations Directorate (FOD) or local authority enforced areas, are as follows:

(a) The number of workplace accidents caused by slipping. There were a total of 33,888 workplace accidents as a result of a slip or trip at work.

(b) The number of days off work. 23,450 workplace accidents resulted in workers taking three days or more off work.

(c) The cost in lost production. The estimated total cost of lost output caused by workplace slips and trips was £233 million. This cost can be disaggregated as follows:

Numbers of reported injuries/fatalities

	Employees	*Self employed*	*Total injuries fatalities*	*Lost output per injury fatality (£)*	*Total cost of lost output (£)*
Fatal injuries	4	1	5	520,700	2,603,500
Non-Fatal Major Injuries	10,178	255	10,433	16,200	169,014,600
Over three day injuries	23,234	216	23,450	2,600	60,970,000
Total	—	—	—	—	232,588,100

(d) The cost to the Department for Work and Pensions in terms of sickness and other benefit arising from injuries sustained by slipping in the workplace.

This information is not available. Expenditure on sickness and other related benefits is only available broken down by nature of injury or condition, not by cause.

Housing Benefit

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the measures in the 2010 Budget on those resident in the *(a)* Metropolitan Borough of Tameside and *(b)* Metropolitan Borough of Stockport who are in receipt of housing benefit; [5000]

(2) how many housing benefit claimant households are in properties valued at above the *(a)* 30th percentile and *(b)* medium local rent in each local market rental area; [5700]

(3) how many *(a)* households and *(b)* people it is estimated will be affected by the change in setting levels of local housing allowance to the 30th percentile of local rents. [5701]

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he has made an estimate of *(a)* the number of private sector tenants in (i) Bishop Auckland and (ii) Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15 and *(b)* the average loss of allowance per week consequent on that reduction in respect of tenants in each of those constituencies in each of those years; [5178]

(2) if he will estimate the number of social housing tenants in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency whose entitlement to housing benefit will decline year on year in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15; what the average reduction is likely to be for each such group in each year; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of such changes in entitlement on (A) local authority housing revenue and (B) the level of new build in the social housing sector; [5294]

(3) what his estimate is of the number of new claimants for housing benefit that will be awarded over *(a)* £1,100, *(b)* £1,000, *(c)* £900, *(d)* £800 and *(e)* £700 per week from November 2010 as a result of implementation of the measures announced in the March 2010 Budget. [5679]

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many private rented sector householders whose rent exceeds the 30th percentile and are in receipt of housing benefit rent allowance are *(a)* above the state retirement age and *(b)* of working age with dependants in each local authority area in England; [5396]

(2) how many households would experience a reduction in entitlement to housing benefit of *(a)* £10, *(b)* more than £20, *(c)* more than £30, *(d)* more than £50 and *(e)* more than £70 a week in each local authority area in England if local housing allowance were set at the 30th percentile of private sector rents; [5398]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of households in receipt of housing benefit whose rent is above the 30th percentile of private sector rents in each local authority area in England. [5399]

Steve Webb: We will publish detail of how the Housing Benefit changes will affect the calculation of Local Housing Allowance rates on 23 July 2010. Impact assessments on the other Housing Benefit changes announced in the Budget will follow in due course.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many householders in the private rented sector *(a)* of working age, *(b)* above working age, *(c)* in each bedroom size property and *(d)* in total are in receipt of housing benefit in each housing authority area. [5409]

Steve Webb: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 282W, on incapacity benefit, in what area he intends to trial the reassessment of incapacity benefit recipients in October 2010. [5235]

Chris Grayling: In accordance with the written statement laid by the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling) on 29 June 2010, the trial for the reassessment of incapacity benefit recipients will take place in Aberdeen and Burnley.

National Employment Savings Trust

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his policy is on the National Employment Savings Trust; [5245]

(2) what his policy is on the National Employment Savings Trust. [5211]

Steve Webb: The Government are committed to introducing automatic enrolment as an effective means of increasing pension saving.

The Making Automatic Enrolment Work review, announced on 24 June will consider whether the approach inherited from the previous Administration strikes the right balance between cost, benefits and risks for individuals, employers, and the taxpayer. The review will also consider whether NEST is the right intervention to support pension savings among low to moderate earners.

The terms of reference for the review can be found on the DWP website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/making-automatic-enrolment-work-tor.pdf

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review *(a)* the role of, *(b)* the structure of and *(c)* auto-enrolment into the National Employment Savings Trust; and if he will make a statement. [5571]

Steve Webb: The Government are committed to introducing automatic enrolment as an effective means of increasing pension saving.

The Making Automatic Enrolment Work review, announced on 24 June will consider whether the approach inherited from the previous Administration strikes the right balance between cost, benefits and risks for individuals, employers and the taxpayer. The review will also consider whether NEST is the right intervention to support pension savings among low to moderate earners.

The terms of reference for the review can be found on the DWP website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/making-automatic-enrolment-work-tor.pdf

Oil: Safety

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* safety incidents, *(b)* injuries and *(c)* dangerous occurrences at each of the 10 Transocean rigs operating in UK waters have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive in each of the last 10 years. [4342]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available in the format requested. The available data are in the following tables.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 give accident and incident statistics reported over the past three years under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) for the 10 Transocean drilling rigs currently working in UK waters.

RIDDOR reportable incidents—2007-08

Rig	*Major*	*Over three-day injury*	*Ill-health*	*DIO*[1]	*HCR*[2]	*Wells incidents*	*Total*
GSF Galaxy II	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
GSF Galaxy III	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
GSF Labrador	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
J. W. McLean	—	3	—	1	—	—	4
Paul B Loyd Jr	—	3	1	1	—	2	7
Sedco 704	1	1	—	4	—	—	6
Sedco 711	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Sedco 714	—	3	—	—	—	1	4
Transocean John Shaw	—	3	—	4	—	2	9
Transocean Prospect	1	1	—	3	—	3	8

[1] Dangerous occurrence—near miss accident no one injured.
[2] Hydrocarbon release.

RIDDOR reportable incidents—2008-09

Rig	*Major*	*Over three-day injury*	*Ill-health*	*DIO*[1]	*HCR*[2]	*Wells incidents*	*Total*
GSF Galaxy II	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
GSF Galaxy III	—	2	—	1	—	1	4
GSF Labrador	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
J. W. McLean	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Paul B Loyd Jr	—	3	—	1	—	1	5
Sedco 704	—	1	—	2	—	1	4
Sedco 711	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Sedco 714	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Transocean John Shaw	1	2	—	2	—	—	5
Transocean Prospect	—	1	—	1	—	—	2

[1] Dangerous occurrence—near miss accident no one injured.
[2] Hydrocarbon release.

RIDDOR reportable incidents—2009-10

Rig	*Major*	*Over three-day injury*	*Ill-health*	*DIO*[1]	*HCR*[2]	*Wells incidents*	*Total*
GSF Galaxy II	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
GSF Galaxy III	—	3	—	2	—	—	5
GSF Labrador	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
J. W. McLean	—	3	1	1	—	—	5
Paul B Loyd Jr	—	2	—	2	—	—	4
Sedco 704	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Sedco 711	1	2	—	—	—	2	5
Sedco 714	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Transocean John Shaw	1	1	—	2	—	2	6
Transocean Prospect	—	1	—	2	—	—	3

[1] Dangerous occurrence—near miss accident no one injured.
[2] Hydrocarbon release.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* major injuries, *(c)* three-day injuries and *(d)* dangerous occurrences classified as (i) unplanned close, (ii) shallow gas and (iii) unplanned flow at each (A) oil and gas production platform, (B) floating production installation, (C) drilling rig and (D) unattended gas platform have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive in each of the last 10 years; and what records the Health and Safety Executive holds on the (x) owner and (y) operator of each such installation. [4343]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as it would incur disproportionate cost.

State Retirement Pensions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 393-94W, on state retirement pensions, for what reasons the month of September is used as the base for these calculations. [5569]

Steve Webb: The Consumer Prices Index figure for September is the most up to date that can be used which allows time for the necessary activities involved in changing both the legislation and benefit systems in time for the uprating date in April. This was also true of the Retail Prices Index when that index was used as the benchmark for price inflation.

The September figures are published by the Office for National Statistics in mid-October and feed into the forecasts prepared for the pre-Budget report, The Uprating Statement to Parliament is made in November or December followed by the Uprating Order which is laid and debated in the new year.

This timetable is important so that new claims to state pensions and pension credit, which can be made up to four months in advance, can be processed using the correct rates of benefit. It also allows adequate time to notify all 19 million benefit recipients of any changes to their benefit.

Unemployed People: Training

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to expedite the training procurement processes carried out by JobCentre Plus for specialist training for job seekers with specialist skills who require the training in order to move on or back into employment. [2160]

Chris Grayling: We remain committed to offering high quality, responsive training provision for those out of work, to help them get the skills they need to find work, stay in work and progress. The Dept for Work and Pensions and the Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills are working closely together to ensure that the provision is in place to support the new Work Programme.

Alongside the Work Programme, we will introduce Getting Britain Working, which will have a series of support measures, such as Work Clubs which will give unemployed people a place to develop skills and share experiences.

Housing Benefit

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Financial Statement of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 174, how many families in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales are receiving £104,0000 a year in housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [5742]

Steve Webb: The latest information the Department holds is for March 2010, when the maximum local housing allowance rate was £1,800, and shows that there were customers who received this rate. All these customers were located in the central London broad rental market area.

In June 2010 the maximum local housing allowance rate rose to £2,000 a week which would be equivalent to receiving £104,000 a year in housing benefit assuming the individual remains in receipt of the same level of benefit for 52 continuous weeks. Information on housing benefit awards in June will be available in September 2010.

JUSTICE

Bill of Rights

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government's Commission to investigate the creation of a British Bill of Rights will include within its terms of reference *(a)* the Human Rights Act 1998 and *(b)* the operation and judicial interpretation of article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights. [5062]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 398W.

Civil Servants: Location

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider relocating civil servants in his Department who are currently working in central London to Leeds. [5579]

Mr Djanogly: In the March 2010 Budget, the Ministry of Justice was tasked with relocating 1,000 posts out of London with 500 posts expected to move outside the south-east of England.

No final decisions have yet been taken about the destination of any moves or the number of posts to be relocated to specific locations. However, I can advise that Leeds has been chosen for one of the Ministry's shared services locations.

Copyright Tribunal: Public Appointments

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the criteria are for the appointment of the new chairman of the Copyright Tribunal. [4718]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The statutory requirement is that to be eligible for appointment a person must:

satisfy the judicial-appointment eligibility condition on a five-year basis; or

be an advocate or solicitor in Scotland of at least five years' standing;

be a member of the Bar of Northern Ireland or solicitor of the Supreme Court of Northern Ireland of at least five years' standing; or

have held judicial office;

be a citizen of the UK, another commonwealth country or the Republic of Ireland.

In addition, it is a non statutory requirement that the Lord Chancellor expects that applicants will normally have expertise in the field of copyright/intellectual property (IP) law or commercial law.

Full details of the criteria for the appointment of the new chairman of the Copyright Tribunal can be found on the Judicial Appointments Commission website at

http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/selection-process/selection-exercises/in-progress/779.htm

Court Dispute Resolution

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on court dispute resolution of the more effective use of technology. [5204]

Mr Djanogly: In my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor's (Kenneth Clarke) written ministerial statement on HM Courts Service Estates issued on 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 16-18WS, we proposed to:

> "look at what can be done to use technology more effectively so fewer people have physically to attend court for routine purposes."

The potential benefits of using technology more effectively could be realised in various ways.

The Virtual Court pilot focused on testing whether first hearings in the magistrates courts could be undertaken through the use of technology by connecting police stations to magistrates courts via video link. The pilot operated in London and Kent and is currently being independently evaluated. The evaluation will contribute to the Ministry's wider understanding of the potential of video linking to speed up the delivery of justice and reduce cost without compromising the interests of justice.

In the civil courts, Money Claim on-line and Possession Claim on-line (MCOL/PCOL) already allow small claims and housing possession claims to be submitted and processed online. These services reduce the reliance on physical court buildings, reduce the need for the public to visit the court themselves and make access to justice available online 24 hours a day. We will continue to support and develop these systems and actively pursue other ways of providing access to services that provide greater value for money.

We will also consider whether technology can improve the take-up of alternative and innovative routes to justice that do not require court hearings, for example through increasing the availability of the telephone small claims mediation service.

Courts: Access

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has in place to improve disability access on court premises. [5205]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS is presently in the third year of a three-year programme of works, costing £ 14.47 million, to address the access-related shortcomings within the magistrates courts estate. These works were identified following a comprehensive access audit of all magistrates courts in 2005, at the time of their transfer to and the creation of HMCS in 2005.

A similar programme of works was undertaken in respect of the Crown and county courts between 2001 and 2004 at a cost of £20 million. Accordingly, once the present programme of works is completed on the magistrates courts in March 2011, all of the HMCS courthouses will be physically accessible, so far as is reasonable and practical.

Defamation: Legal Costs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will introduce measures to reduce success fees in defamation cases. [5074]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are currently considering options for reforming costs in civil litigation, including defamation. In particular, we are urgently assessing the recommendations from Lord Justice Jackson's report, "Review of Civil Litigation Costs", published in January 2010. Among other things, Sir Rupert recommends significant changes to the operation of conditional fee agreements and success fees across the whole of civil litigation. The Government's assessment of Sir Rupert's recommendations will determine the next steps on success fees in defamation proceedings.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of his Department's budget is allocated to its equality, diversity and human rights division. [5203]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: There is no longer an equality, diversity and human rights division within the Ministry of Justice. Details are instead given for the Corporate Equality Division and the Human Rights Division.

The budget of the Corporate Equality Division for 2010-11 is £1.6 million, this equates to 0.018% of the Department's budget. The budget for the Human Rights Division for 2010-11 is £2.2 million, which is another 0.025% of the total budget.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to analyse the distributional effect of the options for reductions in his Department's expenditure. [5243]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government set out in their document "Spending Review Framework" that they will:

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7)

Further information will be available at the Spending Review.

Detention and Training Orders

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children have died *(a)* while serving the community part of a detention and training order under the supervision of a youth offending team and *(b)* within three months of completing a detention and training order since the inception of such orders; and what the cause of death was of each such child in respect of whose death legal proceedings have been concluded. [4923]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board does not collect the data requested. Youth offending teams supervise young people serving the second half of their detention and training order sentence in the community but they are not required to collect and keep the data requested.

Diamond Districts

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Diamond Districts programme in tackling crime. [5073]

Nick Herbert: The Diamond District approach in London is one model of Integrated Offender Management (IOM). IOM is developing in local areas as a partnership approach to the management and rehabilitation of offenders who cause the greatest harm in those areas. Although there is currently limited direct evidence to assess the effectiveness of IOM in reducing levels of re-offending, it builds on offender-based approaches such as local prolific and other priority offender schemes and the Drug Interventions Programme, for which there is positive indicative evidence of impact. The Metropolitan Police Service Strategic Research and Analysis Unit is conducting a two-year evaluation of the Diamond District approach, which will include evidence of impact on reoffending.

Identity Cards

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been under section (i) 25(1), (ii) 25(2), (iii) 25(3), (iv) 25(4) and (v) 25(5) of the Identity Cards Act 2006 in each year since the inception of the Act. [5376]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences under section 25 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 from commencement (7 June 2006) to 31 December 2008 (latest available) are given in the table as follows.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the Identity Cards Act 2006, section 25[1], England and Wales, 2006 to 2008[2, 3, 4]

		2006		*2007*		*2008[5]*	
Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*	*Guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Guilty*
Identity Cards Act 2006—sections 25(1) and (2)	With intent knowingly possessing false or improperly obtained passport or another ID document	587	437	2,433	2,402	2,864	2,843
Identity Cards Act 2006—sections 25(3) and (4)	With intent making or possessing or having under control apparatus or article or material designed or adapted for making false ID documents	8	7	41	39	42	58
Identity Cards Act 2006—sections 25(5)	Possessing or controlling a false or improperly obtained ID card or which relates to another or apparatus etc for making ID documents	133	81	442	428	476	550
Total		728	525	2,916	2,869	3,382	3,451

[1] The Identity Cards Act 2006 came into force 7 June 2006. Centrally held data do not separately identify offences under each sub-section of the Act. Available data are given in the table.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed the number proceeded against as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in an earlier year and the defendants were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April July and August.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Iraq

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget is of each current project in Iraq funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [4782]

Mr Blunt: There are no current projects in Iraq which are directly funded by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

One member of staff from HM Prison Service (HMPS) is currently on secondment to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office supporting the European Community's Rule of Law Programme in Iraq. MoJ's contribution towards this secondment is £25,000 pa.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* core and *(b)* non-core staff are employed by each Director of Offender Management; [5662]

(2) what the annual costs of staff employed by each *(a)* Director of Offender Management, *(b)* regional offender manager and *(c)* prison area manager were in the latest period for which figures are available in each case; [5663]

(3) what the initial plans were for the number of staff required in each Director of Offender Management's office. [5667]

Mr Blunt: The process of change in the NOMS organisations in the nine English regions and Wales in 2009 covered 576 jobs, and the new structure, which is now in place, reduced this number by 180 to 396. The structures were based on core posts, with other roles excluded, e.g. where prison-based resources have been pooled at regional level. Since the end of the process of change there is no longer any distinction between core and non-core posts. Information is now obtained from Oracle HR and we no longer differentiate between those roles covered by the remit of the restructure and those that were not.

The following table contains information on the number of core posts in the original structure, the number of staff employed on 31 March 2010, including those declared surplus and an estimate of the annual staff costs within each Director of Offender Management office.

Regional offender manager and Prison Service area offices no longer exist.

Original core structure and latest total staff and estimated staff costs for DOM offices

DOM office	*Original planned core structure (2009)*	*Staff in Post[1] 31 March 2010*	*Staff declared surplus[2]*	*Annual staff costs[1] (£ million) 31 March 2010*
East Midlands	39	55	3	3.0
East of England	39	51	3	2.4
London	37	30	2	1.9
North East	32	38	2	2.1
North West	44	77	15	3.6
South East	59	88	7	4.7
South West	39	35	4	2.1
Wales	29	25	0	1.4
West Midlands	39	40	9	2.2
Yorkshire and Humberside	39	37	6	2.0
Total	396	475	51	25.4

[1] Director of Offender Management office staffing includes some prison-based resources that have been pooled at regional level.

[2] Staff declared surplus are also included in the staff in post column.

Poppy Project

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Poppy Project bed days were unused in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [4766]

Mr Blunt: Over the last 12 months (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010) there were a total of 17,430 available bed days with the Poppy Project, of which 1,621 days were vacant—providing an occupancy rate of 91% for the project.

Prison Sentences: Wales

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many men of *(a)* between 15 and 17, *(b)* between 18 and 20 and *(c)* over 20 years were sentenced to custody by courts in North Wales in the last 10 years. [5140]

Mr Blunt: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Males sentenced to a custodial sentence[1] in North Wales, by age, 1998-2008

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[2]*
Immediate Custody											
Age 15-17	48	66	61	63	64	71	65	62	84	64	69
Age 18-20	159	174	170	154	142	123	188	176	203	195	213
Over 20	871	868	857	771	833	806	820	854	748	738	845
Suspended sentence											
Age 15-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Males sentenced to a custodial sentence[1] in North Wales, by age, 1998-2008

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[2]
Age 18-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	71	79	77
Over 20	33	35	24	29	25	18	29	151	343	407	406

[1] Includes both immediate and suspended custodial sentences

[2] Following the introduction of the Libra case management system during 2008, offenders at magistrates courts can now be recorded as sex 'Not Stated' or 'Other', as well as 'Male', 'Female'. In 2008 1.5% of offenders sentenced were recorded as sex 'Not Stated'. Detailed comparisons by gender may be no longer be valid.

Court Categorisation

Crown Courts: area categorisation based on the prosecuting police force area (which is not necessarily the area of the sentencing court). If another agency has brought the prosecution, area categorisation is based on the criminal justice area of the sentencing court.

Magistrates Courts: As part of the rollout of the Libra case management system in magistrates' courts during 2008, a change was made to the categorisation by area. Sentences given at courts using the Libra system are categorised according to the criminal justice area of the court while others are categorised in the same way as the Crown Court. By the end of 2008, all magistrates' courts were using Libra. Police forces do not prosecute minor offences (those that are sentenced at magistrates' courts) outside their areas. Only around 0.01% of sentences at magistrates courts were affected in 2007 and 2008.

Police force areas correspond to criminal justice areas except for the Metropolitan and City of London Police which are combined to form the London criminal justice area.

This data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners are detained in the prison estate. [5005]

Mr Blunt: The number of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality is published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, found under the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/population incustody.htm

From the most recent available data, end of March 2010, the foreign national prisoner population in all prison establishments in England and Wales is 11,367.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners of each nationality there were on 6 May 2010. [5136]

Mr Blunt: The number of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality is published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, found under the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/population incustody.htm

From the most recent available data, end of March 2010, the table shows the number of foreign national prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex—England and Wales, 31 March 2010

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
All nationalities	80,894	4,290	85,184
British nationals	67,655	3,357	71,012
Foreign nationals	10,556	811	11,367
Nationality not recorded	2,683	122	2,805
Total Africa	2,576	222	2,798
Algeria	172	0	172
Angola	74	5	79
Benin	1	0	1
Botswana	3	1	4
Burundi	9	0	9
Cameroon	32	2	34
Central African Republic	22	1	23
Congo	124	8	132
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	4	0	4
Egypt	13	0	13
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	1
Ethiopia	63	5	68
Gabon	1	0	1
Gambia	65	3	68
Ghana	138	14	152
Guinea	12	0	12
Guinea-Bissau	1	0	1
Ivory Coast	36	0	36
Kenya	56	7	63
Liberia	20	4	24
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	20	0	20
Malawi	14	1	15
Mali	1	0	1
Mauritania	2	1	3
Mauritius	10	0	10
Morocco	48	0	48
Mozambique	3	0	3
Namibia	3	0	3
Niger	11	2	13
Nigeria	645	89	734
Rwanda	16	0	16
Senegal	9	0	9
Sierra Leone	63	5	68
Somalia	442	10	452
South Africa	109	23	132
Sudan	43	2	45
Tanzania	23	2	25
Togo	5	0	5
Tunisia	18	0	18
Uganda	63	10	73
Zambia	14	3	17
Zimbabwe	167	24	191
Total Asia	2,204	147	2,351
Afghanistan	123	1	124
Bangladesh	188	7	195
Cambodia	1	0	1
China	385	42	427
India	328	11	339

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex—England and Wales, 31 March 2010

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Indonesia	1	0	1
Japan	3	0	3
Korea, DPR (North Korea)	1	2	3
Korea, Republic of	5	0	5
Malaysia	37	5	42
Mongolia	3	1	4
Myanmar	3	0	3
Nepal	10	1	11
Pakistan	413	8	421
Philippines	18	8	26
Singapore	2	2	4
Sri Lanka	147	0	147
Taiwan (Nationalist Chinese)	2	1	3
Thailand	2	5	7
Vietnam	532	53	585
Total Central and South America	252	45	297
Argentina	5	3	8
Belize	0	1	1
Bolivia	7	1	8
Brazil	66	14	80
Chile	8	0	8
Colombia	71	5	76
Costa Rica	2	0	2
Ecuador	9	0	9
French Guiana	2	2	4
Guatemala	4	1	5
Guyana	29	4	33
Mexico	20	11	31
Nicaragua	3	0	3
Panama	1	0	1
Paraguay	2	0	2
Peru	3	1	4
Suriname	3	0	3
Uruguay	1	0	1
Venezuela	16	2	18
Total North America	106	22	128
Canada	26	6	32
United States	80	16	96
Total Europe	3,746	252	3,998
Albania	163	4	167
Armenia	9	0	9
Austria	12	2	14
Azerbaijan	3	0	3
Belgium	30	3	33
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	4	14
Bulgaria	28	24	52
Croatia	9	0	9
Cyprus	30	0	30
Czech Republic	80	12	92
Denmark	16	1	17
Estonia	26	0	26
Finland	4	0	4
France	142	12	154
Georgia	8	0	8
Germany	84	11	95
Gibraltar	4	0	4
Greece	13	0	13
Hungary	26	6	32
Iceland	0	3	3

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex—England and Wales, 31 March 2010

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Irish Republic	657	25	682
Italy	80	2	82
Kazakhstan	2	0	2
Kyrgyzstan	1	1	2
Latvia	140	9	149
Liechtenstein	1	0	1
Lithuania	338	10	348
Macedonia	4	0	4
Malta	3	0	3
Moldova	15	1	16
Netherlands	99	15	114
Norway	7	0	7
Poland	657	13	670
Portugal	212	13	225
Romania	358	47	405
Russian Federation	112	12	124
San Marino	1	0	1
Serbia and Montenegro	38	0	38
Slovakia	54	6	60
Slovenia	3	0	3
Spain	65	10	75
Sweden	17	4	21
Switzerland	6	1	7
Turkey	170	1	171
Turkmenistan	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	8	0	8
Total Middle East	562	12	574
Iran	205	8	213
Iraq	240	1	241
Israel	35	2	37
Jordan	7	0	7
Kuwait	12	1	13
Lebanon	16	0	16
Oman	2	0	2
Qatar	1	0	1
Saudi Arabia	16	0	16
Syrian Arab Republic	12	0	12
United Arab Emirates	4	0	4
Yemen, Republic of	12	0	12
Total Oceania	39	3	42
Australia	24	3	27
Fiji	7	0	7
Kiribati	1	0	1
New Zealand	5	0	5
Papua New Guinea	1	0	1
Samoa	1	0	1
Total West Indies	1,069	108	1,177
Anguilla	1	0	1
Aruba	1	0	1
Bahamas	2	0	2
Barbados	31	8	39
Bermuda	2	1	3
Cuba	3	0	3
Dominica	14	1	15
Dominican Republic	1	0	1
Grenada	18	1	19
Jamaica	895	65	960
Montserrat	13	0	13
Netherlands Antilles	6	3	9
St Kitts and Nevis	5	0	5

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex—England and Wales, 31 March 2010

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
St Lucia	20	11	31
St Vincent and the Grenadines	15	2	17
Trinidad and Tobago	41	16	57
Virgin Islands	1	0	1
Total other	2	0	2

Data sources and quality:
Those figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners he expects to be in prison on 1 May *(a)* 2011, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2013. [5138]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in August 2009. These project the prison population under three different scenarios (high, medium and low), based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends. Separate projections of foreign national prisoners are not calculated.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on making a prisoner transfer agreement with *(a)* South Africa, *(b)* China and *(c)* Nigeria. [5139]

Mr Blunt: A prisoner transfer agreement with South Africa is unlikely to be concluded in the near future. It is the policy of the South African Government not to enter into such agreements.

The possibility of a prisoner transfer agreement with China is under review.

Nigeria and the United Kingdom are signatories to the Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders within the Commonwealth. The scheme allows for the transfer of prisoners between Nigeria and the United Kingdom where the consent of both states and the prisoner is obtained. A separate compulsory transfer agreement is under consideration. We expect negotiations to be completed once the Nigerian National Assembly has passed the necessary legislation.

Prisoners: Nigeria

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Nigerian citizens held in UK prisons he expects to be returned to Nigeria in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [5137]

Mr Blunt: The United Kingdom and Nigeria are both participants to the Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders within the Commonwealth. This scheme provides for the voluntary transfer of prisoners between participating states. 24 Nigerian nationals in prisons in England and Wales have submitted applications to be repatriated to Nigeria. These applications are under consideration by the Nigerian Government. Because of the voluntary nature of the current transfer scheme and the need for the consent of the Nigerian Government in each case it is not possible to indicate how many prisoners will be transferred in the years 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners have been returned to their home countries under the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Prisoner Transfer since the inception of the agreement in November 2009. [5656]

Mr Blunt: On the 1 November 2009 the United Kingdom ratified the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. The protocol provides for the compulsory transfer of prisoners between signatory states where a prisoner is to be deported or where the prisoner has fled the sentencing state.

Under the Additional Protocol the United Kingdom has transferred to Austria the enforcement of a sentence of an Austrian national who had fled from custody here having absconded from an open prison. In addition, 12 prisoners have been referred to the UK Borders Agency for deportation action. Once deportation orders have been served consideration will be given to their transfer under the Additional Protocol.

Probation Boards

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation boards have assumed trust status; and which probation boards have had their application for trust status rejected. [5670]

Mr Blunt: Six trusts were vested in the first wave of probation trusts in April 2008. These were South Wales, Dyfed Powys, Humberside; Leicestershire and Rutland, West Mercia and Merseyside. Two further trusts were vested in April 2009. These were Lancashire and Greater Manchester. All probation boards were required to apply for trust status and a rigorous examination took place of their performance and management capability. All areas were successful in this application process. During 2009 a number of probation boards decided that they would be better placed by proposing voluntary amalgamations. All remaining probation boards achieved trust status on 1 April 2010 with the following succeeding as amalgamated trusts: Durham Tees Valley, Norfolk and Suffolk, Wales Probation Trust (the former South Wales and Dyfed Powys Trusts) and the Probation Boards of Gwent and North Wales; Surrey and Sussex; West Midlands and Staffordshire.

In total there are 35 probation trusts for England and Wales.

Rape: Rights of Accused

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to grant anonymity to defendants in court cases involving allegations of sexual abuse of children. [5192]

Mr Blunt: The Government have made clear that they will carefully consider all the options before bringing proposals to Parliament on the question of extending anonymity in rape cases to defendants. This includes consideration of the period which would be covered by the anonymity, and the possible extension of coverage beyond rape to other offences. It also includes the possibility of special provision for teachers and others in positions of trust. Our Coalition agreement includes a further commitment to give anonymity to teachers accused by pupils and to take other measures to protect against false accusations.

Voluntary Work

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of unpaid work requirements were supervised by *(a)* the public sector, *(b)* the private sector and *(c)* the voluntary sector in each of the last three years. [5660]

Mr Blunt: The number of unpaid work (Community Payback) hours imposed during the last three years is given in the following table (to the nearest thousand).

	Unpaid work hours
2007	10,224,000
2008	10,859,000
2009	11,374,000

The hours supervised by the public, private and voluntary sectors are not recorded separately. The majority of hours worked by offenders are undertaken in groups, supervised by probation service staff.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Banks: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency have participated in the Working Capital Scheme since its inception. [6167]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) on 30 June 2010, *Official Report,* column reference 564W.

Business: Government Assistance

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses *(a)* in Great Yarmouth constituency, *(b)* in the east of England and *(c)* nationally have received loans under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee since that scheme's inception. [6171]

Mr Prisk: Under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, as of 30 June 2010, 9,087 businesses have drawn down loans totalling £910.93 million. Of which, in the east of England, 948 businesses have drawn down loans of £85.94 million, and the constituency of Great Yarmouth, eight businesses have drawn down loans totalling £287,207.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many projects *(a)* in Great Yarmouth constituency, *(b)* in the east of England region and *(c)* nationally have been supported by the Strategic Investment Fund since that fund's inception. [6173]

Mr Prisk: The Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) is funding around 45 different projects and programmes.

The SIF is a UK-wide fund, and a number of projects supported by the SIF are themselves UK-wide in geographical scope. They will benefit companies across the UK, including those in Great Yarmouth.

A number of other projects supported under the SIF can be identified to specific geographical locations, though the benefits of the projects will often be felt over a much wider area. In the east of England, SIF is funding Stevenage Bio-park. There are no SIF projects specifically in Great Yarmouth.

Departmental Buildings

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what properties his Department and its non-departmental public bodies *(a)* own and *(b)* lease overseas; whether those properties are shared with other Government Departments and non-departmental public bodies; and whether he plans to (i) sell the property or (ii) cancel the lease in each case. [3521]

Mr Davey: The information requested is as follows:

BIS does not own or lease any overseas properties.

Regional development agencies

The following lists all overseas foreign direct investment offices leased by the RDAs. This does not include "serviced office facilities" where there is no lease, or employees or consultants who work from home:

North West Development Agency, Chicago—shared with One North East; One North East—offices in Chicago (shared with NWDA), Tokyo and Shanghai; South East England Development Agency—offices in Kanagawa (Japan), Shanghai and Seoul (the latter shared with Think London);

Yorkshire Forward—Offices in Hangzhou and Tokyo. No decisions have been taken as yet on the cancellation of the leases for these properties.

Medical Research Council

The Medical Research Council maintains two overseas research units: MRC Laboratories, The Gambia and MRC/UVRI Research Unit in Uganda. To facilitate the running of these units, the MRC leases various properties in both countries, including laboratory facilities, clinic and patient care facilities, office and staff accommodation. None of the properties leased by the MRC are shared with other UK Government Departments or NDPBs and there are no current plans to sell or cancel any of the leases as the properties are currently in use for ongoing research programmes. In addition, the MRC leases office premises in Beijing on behalf of RCUK China. The property is shared with the other research councils and there are currently no plans to cancel the existing lease.

Science and Technology Facilities Council

The Science and Technology Facilities Council has 15 apartments/houses occupied by staff in La Palma, Canary Islands, owned by STFC, plus three telescopes owned by STFC but on land leased from the Government of Spain, plus a leased office building. The office is shared with telescope administrations from other countries. All have a current planning lifetime through to the end of 2013 and will be sold or given up on that timescale.

The Anglo-Australian Observatory has one telescope—the UK Schmidt Telescope, owned by STFC on land leased from the Australian National University. This is not shared. The lease will be given up in July 2010.

The Joint Astronomy Centre in Hawaii has 2 telescopes (UKIRT, JCMT) owned by STFC and one office building also owned by STFC. The leases for the land are with the University of Hawaii and run to 2033. However STFC planning is only until 2013. None is shared with other Departments. STFC also lease rooms at a hostel on an annual basis. This facility is shared with telescope users form other countries.

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

The BBSRC leases an office in Brussels on behalf of the UK Research Office. There are no plans to cancel the lease.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

EPSRC operates the Research Council UK (RCUK) Washington office. This space is based within the UK embassy and rented from the FCO. There are no current plans to cease this arrangement.

Economic and Social Research Council

ESRC manages the RCUK India office in Delhi. Space is leased within the British high commission in India and this is planned to continue. ESRC also rents two priorities (housing) through the high commission for UK staff at the RCUK India office. These leases are planned to continue and will be reviewed when due for renewal.

Natural Environment Research Council

NERC leases a property in Ny-Alesund, Norway. This is a research station for seven scientists and NERC are currently reviewing whether to continue with this facility. NERC also own four British Antarctic Survey sites (Rothera, Halley, Bird Island and Signy) and have no plans to sell them.

Departmental Catering

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4850]

Mr Davey: This Department does not separately itemise catering costs from entertainment and hospitality generally, and to disaggregate the figures could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each directorate of his Department and its predecessor spent on each type of catering in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [5519]

Mr Davey: The Department does not separately itemise catering costs from entertainment and hospitality generally, and to disaggregate the figures could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what catering facilities for internal meetings have been available in his Department and its predecessors for internal meetings in each year since 1997; how much his Department spent on catering for each internal meeting in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [5520]

Mr Davey: Catering for internal meetings has been available via our contracted service suppliers in BIS and its predecessors since 1997. However, since May of this year BIS staff have been requested not to book catering for internal meetings as part of our cost saving measures.

It is not possible to provide figures on catering spend for internal meetings as this information is not recorded separately and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 82W, on departmental manpower, what the salary range is of staff employed at each grade in the private office of each Minister in his Department. [3243]

Mr Davey: The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was formed through a Machinery of Government change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Staff in grades below the Senior Civil Service within BIS have different pay arrangements depending on which of the former Departments they came from.

Pay arrangements for staff that work within the Senior Civil Service (SCS) are part of the pay system that operates across the whole Civil Service. The salary levels are based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The pay scales that operate within the Department are in the following tables:

BERR:

(£)

	London		*National*	
Grade	*Minimum*	*Maximum*	*Minimum*	*Maximum*
AA	17,105	18,617	13,605	15,117
AO	19,825	21,869	16,325	18,369
EO	22,263	27,023	18,763	23,523
HEO	27,070	32,866	23,570	29,366
SEO	32,241	40,701	28,741	37,201
Grade 7	44,186	55,562	40,686	52,062
Grade 6	53,543	67,313	50,043	63,813
FastStream	25,800	31,800	22,300	28,300

DIUS:

(£)

	London		*National*	
Grade	*Minimum*	*Maximum*	*Minimum*	*Maximum*
EA	20,017	22,126	16,517	18,626
EO	23,633	27,281	20,133	23,781
HEO	28,652	33,027	25,152	29,527
SEO	34,385	40,917	30,885	37,417
Grade 7	46,629	55,882	43,129	52,382
Grade 6	55,715	67,714	52,215	64,214
FastStream	28,652	40,917	25,152	37,417

SCS:

(£)

Grade	*Minimum*	*Maximum*
SCS Pay Band 1	58,200	117,800
SCS Pay Band 2	82,900	162,500
SCS Pay Band 3	101,500	208,100

Departmental Translation Services

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* documents and *(b)* other information for which (i) his Department and (ii) its associated public bodies are responsible are published or provided in the UK in languages other than English; for what reason each such publication is required to be made available in a language or languages other than English; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the translation work so incurred in the latest period for which figures are available. [1780]

Mr Davey: Since 1 April 2009 the Department has published 103 items in 26 different languages. This includes hard copy publications and items published only on the Department's website, together with items produced by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). A full list of these publications, showing each title and in which language it was published, will be placed in the libraries of the House. Other items translated into foreign languages include business cards and letters.

Items published in Welsh were produced to comply with the Department's Welsh Language Scheme which states that for the conduct of public business in Wales the Department will treat the English and Welsh languages on a basis of equality.

Other items have been produced to inform people whose first language is not English about issues such as employment rights and entitlements, or for specific overseas markets.

Figures are available for spend on items procured via the translation service of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and via the Central Office of Information (COI). This covers a wider range of material than just the publications identified.

2009/10 (including spend by the former BERR and former DIUS before the creation of BIS in June 2009):

	(£)
BERR/BIS	4,151.71
DIUS	2,000.00
UKTI	112,265.10
Total	205,839.57
2010/11 to date:	
BIS	545.02
UKTI	14,332.44
Total	14,877.46

Information about items produced by the Department's partner organisations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to amend or replace the Agency Workers Regulations 2010. [5101]

Mr Davey: The Government are aware of the different points of view expressed by the business community about certain aspects of the agency workers regulations and are currently considering the way forward.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to protect Jewish university students from anti-Semitic attacks; what recent reports he has received of incidents of anti-Semitism on university campuses; what discussions he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [4327]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 29 June 2010]:* There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and report criminal attacks to the police when they occur on campus, or support students to do so.

I have received correspondence on this issue, and I have had no discussions so far with representatives of the Jewish community. However, I am due to meet with representatives of the Jewish community and the HE sector to discuss anti-Semitism and higher education.

Iraq

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects in Iraq are being funded by his Department; what the budget of each such project is; and if he will make a statement. [4014]

Mr Willetts: This Department currently supports two education programmes with Iraq:

(i) A programme of capacity building and support for the rebuilding of a modernised and robust technical and vocational education system responsive to the economic and social needs currently facing Iraq—the Rawabit Programme. This programme has been running since 2004. BIS has contributed funding of £950,000 towards the programme since 2006. A further £300,000 will be provided this financial year bringing the total to £1.2 million.

(ii) The Higher Education Leadership and Management for Iraq programme (HELMI). Two year programme started in 2009/2010 to strengthen academic and leadership management in Iraqi HE. The budget for this programme over the two years is £237,144. The programme will finish in March 2011.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the responsibilities of his proposed local enterprise partnerships will be. [5427]

Mr Prisk: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough (Mr Blunkett) on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 646-47W.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable has been set for *(a)* the submission of bids for local enterprise partnerships and *(b)* the coming into operation of local enterprise partnerships. [6038]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote jointly with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, inviting outline proposals from partnerships of local authorities and businesses, reflecting the coalition Government's agenda, as soon as possible, and no later than 6 September. A copy of the letter is available in the Libraries of the House.

As set out in the Budget, the Government will publish a White Paper later in the summer, which will set out the Government's approach to sub-national growth. Legislation to abolish RDAs and enable local enterprise partnerships was announced in the Queen's Speech and is expected to be introduced to Parliament in the autumn.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what incentives will be offered for local enterprise partnerships to raise some of their own funding under his proposals for such partnerships. [6039]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the Budget, the Government will publish a White Paper later in the summer, which will set out the Government's approach to sub-national growth. The White Paper will also consider the most appropriate framework of incentives for local authorities to support growth, including exploring options for business rate and council tax incentives, which would allow local authorities to reinvest the benefits of growth into local communities.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what mechanisms will be used to determine the funding for each local enterprise partnership; [6040]

(2) what the economic objectives will be of local enterprise partnerships; [6041]

(3) whether a local enterprise partnership could cover a single higher tier authority area under his proposals for such partnerships; [6042]

(4) what his policy is on the minimum size of population to be covered by a local enterprise partnership; [6043]

(5) whether he plans to provide further guidance on local enterprise partnerships to local authorities and business. [6044]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote jointly with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, inviting local groups of councils and business leaders to come together to consider how they wish to form local enterprise partnerships. A copy of the letter is available in the Libraries of the House.

As set out in the Budget, we will publish a White Paper later in the summer, which will set out the Government's approach to sub-national growth.

Newton Scholarships

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students receive Newton scholarships; and what estimate he has made of the number of students who would not be able to afford to attend university if Newton scholarships were abolished. [5194]

Mr Willetts: No students are in receipt of a Newton scholarship. The scheme, primarily for international research students, was announced by the previous Administration as part of the March 2010 Budget and an initial cohort of around 100 students was planned for entry in October 2010.

On 17 June the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced that a number of unfunded projects would be cancelled or suspended. This included the Newton scholarships, on which any decision will now be taken during the spending review. No university or organisation will lose money as a result of this suspension. The Government's considerable levels of support for PhD students, through the Research Councils, mean it is unlikely that there will be any increase in students unable to afford to attend university following this decision.

One NorthEast

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of One North East's capital programme budget has been spent in each year since its inception. [6168]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column reference 534W to my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Robert Halfon).

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of One North East in attracting investment into the region from *(a)* other parts of the UK, *(b)* non-UK, EU-based companies and *(c)* companies based outside the EU. [6181]

Mr Prisk: Recent assessment into the effectiveness of One North East in attracting investment into the region shows that investment attracted from *(a)* other parts of the UK—these figures are projects to which One North East responded following inquiries from UK companies—RDAs cannot target proactively companies already based elsewhere in the UK under the RDA guidelines—*(b)* for non-UK, EU-based companies and *(c)* companies based outside the EU figures show the total number of projects that invested into the north-east and in which One North East (ONE) were involved were:

	Financial year		
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
UK projects	8	8	5
EU projects*	7	8	11
Rest of World projects*	45	37	44
New Jobs	1,337	2,811	3,505
S/G Jobs	1,389	1,431	3,190
Total Jobs	2,726	4,242	6,695
Capex (£ million)	204	191	754

Notes:

1. FDI performance assessment of One North East was undertaken by Arthur D Little in 2006-07. It found that One North East was involved in 82% of all inward investment activity in north-east England and that its work generated £385 million of GVA for the region.

2. (a), (b) and (c) figures supplied by ONE; EU* and Rest of World* project numbers confirmed by UKTI.

Postal Services Bill

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials of his Department are working on preparations for the Postal Services Bill. [5113]

Mr Davey: There are three officials working in the core Bill team on the preparations for the Postal Services Bill. This team is supported by a range of officials from across the Department with relevant expertise, in particular a team of four lawyers, eight policy officials, and an economist. Most of these officials continue to have other responsibilities outside of their work on the Bill itself.

Redundancy Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the uprating of statutory redundancy pay. [5257]

Mr Davey: Section 34 of the Employment Relations Act 1999 established a mechanism for the annual changes in award limits (up or down as appropriate), in line with the retail prices index. We have no current plans to change this mechanism.

Retail Trade: Regulation

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) which regulations introduced by the previous Government he plans to repeal to reduce the regulatory burden on small retailers; and if he will make a statement; [5493]

(2) what steps he plans to take to reduce the regulatory burden on small retailers; and if he will make a statement. [5494]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has a range of mechanisms to ensure that the needs and concerns of retailers and small businesses are given due attention. These mechanisms include meetings between Ministers and representative bodies and trade associations, regular policy discussions with officials, the small firms consultation database and through a series of formal meetings, including the Retail Policy Forum. In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing the regulatory burdens on business, including the introduction of a one-in-one-out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year. These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Committee. Also, seven key reviews have been announced which will tackle the burden of regulation:

> Lord Young of Graffham will lead a review of Health and Safety regulation;
>
> a new industry-led Task Force chaired by Richard McDonald will consider ways to reduce the regulatory burden on the farming industry;
>
> each relevant Department will be reviewing the employment laws in their policy areas to ensure they maximise flexibility for both parties while protecting fairness and providing the competitive environment required for enterprise to thrive;
>
> the Home Office has postponed all new registrations with the Independent Safeguarding Authority while it carries out a review of the vetting and barring scheme;
>
> a joint OCS/BIS Civil Society Regulation Taskforce has been established to reduce the burden of red tape on small civil society organisations;
>
> and the Department for Food and Rural Affairs has announced a review of waste policy in England.
>
> Communities Secretary Eric Pickles will shortly be asking Councillors and Council staff to suggest how outdated and obsolete secondary legislation can be cut down to size.

These reviews will report in due course. The Your Freedom website will also give members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal, in order to reduce the burden on business.

Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what advice his Department obtained from third parties on the £80 million loan to Sheffield Forgemasters *(a)* before and *(b)* after 6 May 2010; [5877]

(2) what cost-benefit analysis and other evaluation was undertaken in respect of the £80 million loan to Sheffield Forgemasters *(a)* before and *(b)* after 6 May 2010; [5878]

(3) whether Ministers or officials of his Department discussed with potential developers of replacement nuclear power stations the matter of the £80 million loan to Sheffield Forgemasters between 7 May and 17 June 2010; [5879]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 540W, on Sheffield Forgemasters: finance, whether *(a)* Ministers or *(b)* officials of his Department had discussions with Sheffield Forgemasters on the proposed £80 million loan between 7 May and 17 June 2010. [6142]

Mr Prisk: Prior to 6 May, the independent statutory Industrial Development Advisory Board provided advice regarding support for the Sheffield Forgemasters (SFIL) project at meetings in June 2009, September 2009 and February 2010. The Department also commissioned a report from Deloitte examining the potential market opportunities from the project, and received advice from Allen & Overy relating to the terms and conditions of the conditional offer.

In considering the case for providing public support to SFIL, the Industrial Development Advisory Board was supported by the following evaluations: *(a)* additionality—an assessment of whether the project would go ahead without public support; *(b)* an assessment of the costs and benefits of Government support; and *(c)* an assessment of commercial considerations. No additional cost-benefit analysis, over and above these evaluations, has been undertaken.

My Department did not take advice from third parties between 7 May and 17 June 2010 on the subject of the loan. Officials from the Department met with Westinghouse on 3 June 2010 to discuss project planning issues.

The decision not to pursue the loan was taken on the grounds of affordability.

Summer Time

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what evidence his Department holds on the relationship between the change from British Summer Time to Greenwich Mean Time and the number of robberies occurring on the day upon which the change took place in each of the last five years. [5288]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for overall policy regarding changes between British Summer Time and Greenwich Mean Time and related matters. The Home Office is responsible for the collation of crime statistics, including robberies. The information requested is not held by the Home Office and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Working Hours: EU Law

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to amend or replace the Working Time Regulations 1998. [5099]

Mr Davey: Some minor amendments to the Working Time Regulations may be necessary in the relatively near future in light of recent European Court judgments. As stated in the coalition agreement, the Government are committed to limiting the application of the working time directive in the UK. This will of course include maintenance of the flexibility provided by the right of individuals to opt out of the maximum 48-hour working week.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance he has issued on the maximum number of on-call hours that an employee may be required to stay on their employer's premises during a working week. [5100]

Mr Davey: Detailed guidance on the Working Time Regulations is available for workers on the Direct Gov website. This guidance clearly states that the maximum working week (for those not choosing to opt out) is 48 hours and that, as required as a result of decisions by the European Court of Justice, time spent on call at work would count towards this. Enquirers requiring more detailed or tailored guidance can contact the ACAS helpline.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 6 July 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5554]

Mr Paterson: Ministers use cars provided by the Government Car and Dispatch Agency as and when necessary for official ministerial business under guidelines provided by the Cabinet Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bed properties in the social sector in West Lancashire constituency. [5648]

Andrew Stunell: The number of surplus properties in the social sector is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of vacant general needs registered social landlord owned dwellings located in each local authority area as at 31 March is collected by the Tenant Services Authority via their regulatory and statistical return (RSR). However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing.

Community Land Trusts

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many community land trusts are registered in England; and how many new homes he expects such trusts to provide in the next four years. [6018]

Grant Shapps: There is no requirement to register to become a community land trusts (CLT). They are independent locally constituted bodies, which are contributing to the provision of affordable housing in areas of need. We have no estimate of how many homes CLTs will provide in the next four years.

Council Housing: Construction

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 374-5W, on council housing: construction, what criteria his Department uses to assess the value for money of schemes to support the construction of new local authority housing. [6504]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency would judge any local authority scheme put forward for grant support against the same criteria it would apply to housing association schemes; that is, value for money in terms of both total public subsidy and per person housed.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present Administration. [6433]

Robert Neill: Nil. There will be no cost to the public purse; costs of official ministerial photographs commissioned since 12 May 2010 are being personally met by Ministers.

In previous years for which costs are available, departmental spend on official ministerial photography, funded by the public purse, was as follows:

	£
2009-10	939.25
2008-09	445
2007-08	794
2006-07	470

Housing Benefit: Homlessness

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the likely effects of implementation of the proposed changes to the payment of housing benefit on *(a)* levels of homelessness and *(b)* demand for affordable housing in each of the next five years. [6536]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Work and Pensions undertakes an assessment of the impact on specific groups as part of the policy development process. DWP will publish formal impact assessments in due course.

Housing: Construction

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to bring forward further proposals on providing financial incentives to local authorities allowing residential development in their areas. [5839]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement set out our clear intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including new homes and business. I will set out further details on incentives in due course.

Housing: Empty Property

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 377W, on housing: empty property, when he expects to complete his assessment of potential measures to bring empty homes back into use; and if he will make a statement. [6505]

Grant Shapps: We will complete our assessment and make an announcement shortly.

National Community Land Trust Network

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing the National Community Land Trust Network; how many people he expects the network to employ; and what effects he expects the establishment of the network to have on community land trusts. [6017]

Grant Shapps: Carnegie UK Trust was awarded funding through the Empowerment Fund in 2009 to support community engagement in planning matters. Their bid focused on their work facilitating community land trusts (CLTs). As part of their work, the trust has established the National Community Land Trust Network, which will be hosted by the National Housing Federation (NHF) with a grant of £100,000 over two years. The NHF will complement this funding with financial and in-kind support. One member of staff will be employed by the network, which will provide high quality legal, financial and development advice to CLTs. Key to its work will be to ensure experience and good practice is shared to assist communities to deliver more affordable housing, workspaces and community facilities using this model.

Property Development: Floods

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities not to grant planning permissions for residential dwellings on flood plains or areas at high risk of flooding; and if he will make a statement. [5482]

Robert Neill: The coalition programme states that the Government will radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative party publication "Open Source Planning". The programme also states that the Government will prevent unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk. We will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy shortly.

Social Rented Housing: Bishop Auckland

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of surplus *(a)* one and *(b)* two bedroom properties in the social sector in (i) Bishop Auckland and (ii) Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [5091]

Andrew Stunell: The number of surplus properties in the social sector is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of vacant general needs registered social landlord owned dwellings located in each local authority area as at 31 March is collected by the Tenant Services Authority via its Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR). However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association properties remaining to be refurbished under the Decent Homes programme on 31 March (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011. [6537]

Grant Shapps: The latest estimate is that there were 282,000 local authority and 134,000 housing association homes failing to meet the Decent Homes standard at the end of March 2010 and there will be 205,000 local authority and 100,000 housing association non-decent homes at the end of March 2011. These figures would have been lower had funding reductions of £150 million not been made to the Decent Homes programme in July 2009.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to increase the powers of local authorities to remove illegally camped Gypsies and Travellers; and if he will make a statement. [5483]

Andrew Stunell: The Government will ensure that, where local authorities have made appropriate provision for authorised sites in their area which reflect genuine local need and historic demand, those authorities will be given stronger enforcement powers to deal with unauthorised encampments. We are reviewing how this can be achieved but any changes to the law must be consistent with our other coalition agreement commitments; we will be looking in the first instance at options for enforcing existing civil law, such as the use of civil penalties.

TRANSPORT

Bus services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2000 to require all new buses to have audio and visual information systems. [4190]

Norman Baker: Research is currently being undertaken to assess whether the challenges of widespread implementation of audio-visual equipment on buses can be overcome. This will assist the decision on whether to make amendments to the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations to include a requirement for such systems to be fitted to buses. The research project has brought together a cross-section of stakeholders, including Guide Dogs, Royal National Institute of Blind People and Royal National Institute for Deaf People. The project is scheduled to report in autumn 2010.

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to offer bus services operator grant for the provision of local bus services in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [5452]

Norman Baker: The Government are considering bus service operators grant as part of the spending review. We will make an announcement once the spending review has concluded.

Bus Services: Leeds

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the liability to contractors would be if funding for the quality bus scheme on the A65 in Leeds were withdrawn. [4085]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not made an estimate of these costs as we have no intention of withdrawing funding for this scheme.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5712]

Norman Baker: The address of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which the Department for Transport is responsible is as follows:

British Rail Residuary Board, BRB (Residuary) Ltd, 4th Floor, 1 Kemble Street, London WC2B 4AN

British Transport Police Authority, The Forum, 5th Floor North, 74-80 Camden Street, London NW1 0EG

Cycling England, PO Box 54810, London SW1P 4XX

Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee, 2/23 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR

Civil Aviation Authority, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TE

Commission for Integrated Transport, 2nd Floor, 55 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0EU

Directly Operated Railways Ltd, 4th Floor, 1 Kemble Street, London WC2B 4AN

High Speed 2 Ltd, 55 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0EU

Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, 83 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0HW

Northern Lighthouse Board, 84 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DA

Office of Rail Regulation, 1 Kemble Street, London, WC2B 4AN

Office of the Traffic Commissioner, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF

Passenger Focus, Whittles House, 14 Pentonville Road, London N1 9HF and 5th Floor, Wellington House, 39/41 Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1LQ

Rail Heritage Committee, Zone 4/13, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

Renewable Fuels Agency, Ashdown House, Sedlescombe Road North, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7GA

Trinity House Lighthouse Service, Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3N 4DH.

Departmental Reviews

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Government Departments: reviews, what reviews his Department is undertaking; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* timescale of each is. [2583]

Norman Baker: The coalition agreement sets out in detail the Government's future plans, including the key reviews they will be undertaking. This includes a reform of the way decisions are made on which transport projects to prioritise so that the benefits of low-carbon proposals (including light rail schemes) are fully recognised. The Department for Transport will bring forward detailed information about this and other reviews in due course.

Intercity Express

Phil Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish the outcomes of Sir Andrew Foster's review of the Intercity Express contract; and if he will make a statement. [4097]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have published Sir Andrew Foster's report today and I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made today by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on rolling stock.

Merchant Shipping: Registration

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to encourage more merchant naval vessels to register in the UK. [6033]

Mike Penning: The Government remain committed to a strong and high quality UK Ship Register.

The Ship Register is maintaining its strong position both in size (11th largest fleet in the world) and its commitment to maintaining high quality standards (5th on the Paris MOU white list).

We continue to explore opportunities for further development of the UK Ship Register.

River Wear: Bridges

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will expedite the decision on whether to retain planned funding to the new Wear bridge. [4130]

Norman Baker: As the Secretary of State explained in his written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS on transport (local authority major schemes), funding decisions for this or any other local authority major transport scheme will not be taken at least until the conclusion of the spending review.

Road Traffic: Greater Manchester

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will visit the villages of Hollingworth and Mottram-in-Longdendale in Stalybridge and Hyde constituency to observe traffic congestion on the A59. [3700]

Norman Baker: I understand Tameside metropolitan borough council is currently looking at options to address congestion in the villages of Hollingworth and Mottram-in-Longdendale in the constituency of Stalybridge and Hyde.

I do not think it would be appropriate for me or the Secretary of State for Transport to visit the area to observe traffic congestion whilst this work is ongoing.

Roads: Lighting

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to inform Croydon and Lewisham councils of his decision on their joint bid for credit for their private finance initiative street lighting scheme. [4545]

Norman Baker: Croydon and Lewisham councils have not yet submitted a final business case to the Department for Transport on their proposed street lighting scheme to be delivered through the private finance initiative. This is not expected to be received until some time in late 2010/early 2011.

South East Airports Taskforce

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the responsibilities of the South East Airports Taskforce are; and what mechanism will be established to ensure that the taskforce takes account of representations from local residents and environmental groups. [3699]

Mrs Villiers: The South East Airports Taskforce will bring together key players from across the industry to explore the scope for measures to help improve reliability, reduce delay and create better conditions for all users.

I have invited representation from the Aviation Environment Federation to consider the environmental impact of any proposals.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the expenditure of her Department and its predecessor on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6120]

Richard Benyon: The Department runs conferences on specific issues where we feel benefit will be had. Where appropriate we send delegates to other organisations' conferences whose work is relevant to our own.

Statistics on conferences are not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Floods: North-East

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure her Department and its agencies have incurred on flood defences in the north-east in each of the last 13 years; and what estimate she has made of the equivalent figure in each of the next five years. [6187]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows Environment Agency expenditure within the Northumbria Regional Flood Defence Committee's boundary. Figures are available from 2000-01 and have been rounded to the nearest £100,000.

Expenditure on flood risk management includes investment in new defences and other assets, maintenance of existing defences, and all other flood risk activities such as flood warnings and mapping.

Figures have been sourced from Environment Agency outturn reports, which are now called stewardship statements, presented by the Environment Agency to the Northumbria Regional Flood Defence Committee each year.

	Total (£000)
2000-01	5,400
2001-02	5,600
2002-03	7,700
2003-04	9,700
2004-05	11,500
2005-06	11,500
2006-07	10,200
2007-08	9,900
2008-09	9,900
2009-10	11,000
2010-11	13,900

Spending levels in future years are dependent on the conclusions of the spending review.

Whales: Conservation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions Ministers in her Department had with their international counterparts at the 62nd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission; and if she will make a statement. [5906]

Richard Benyon: I spoke with Ministerial colleagues from Australia, New Zealand and Brazil, and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State discussed whaling and the IWC with her counterparts in Germany and France. Throughout, we stressed our strong support for the moratorium on commercial whaling, and the need to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of whales.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* other engagements Ministers in her Department attended as part of the 62nd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission. [5907]

Richard Benyon: I was able to attend the first day of the annual International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting, to demonstrate our commitment to the work of the IWC and the importance that the UK Government and people attach to it.

I also had bilateral meetings with Ministers from Australia and New Zealand and met officials from the European Commission, EU member states, the Buenos Aires Group of South American countries and other IWC member countries.

Woodland

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to increase the amount of woodland in *(a)* England and *(b)* the west midlands. [5081]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* The Forestry Commission's delivery plan for the 2007 strategy for England's trees, woods and forests includes the objective to plant trees and create new woodland in priority places. In addition our programme for Government includes a commitment to launch a new national tree planting campaign.

Under the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13, there is a commitment to create 15,400 hectares of new woodlands with support from the English Woodland Grant Scheme administered by the Forestry Commission. This support is available in all regions including the west midlands. There will also be a contribution from smaller woodlands planted as part of Environmental Stewardship, the agri-environment grant scheme administered by Natural England.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to protect ancient woodland in *(a)* England and *(b)* the west midlands. [5082]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* All woodland is protected in accordance with the felling regulations under the Forestry Act 1967 (as amended). Any felling carried out without a licence is an offence, unless it is covered by one of the exemptions specified in the legislation. Under the Forestry Act, the Forestry Commission usually attaches conditions to a felling licence in order to secure replanting of any area felled.

Where it is intended to fell trees and use the land for another purpose the proposals will be assessed under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations, and consent for felling under these regulations may also be required from the Forestry Commission.

Woodland is also at risk from pests and diseases, some of which have emerged or become more widespread over the last few years. The Forestry Commission has responsibility for the protection of forest trees and timber and is empowered to make orders to prevent the introduction and spread of tree pests and diseases.

Other measures to protect woodland, such as tree preservation orders, are available to local authorities in the west midlands and throughout England.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6119]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not separately record information on the organisation of or attendance at conferences. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of managing public money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5976]

David Mundell: In the last 12 months one item of property has been recorded as lost. The Scotland Office incurred no cost as it was not replaced. No property has been reported stolen in the last 12 months.

WALES

Bosch: Location

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether she has discussed with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers *(a)* the effects on employment in companies supplying the Bosch factory in Cardiff of relocation of the factory outside the UK and *(b)* the effect on other Bosch factories in Wales of such a relocation. [4126]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on the economic and employment situation in Wales. The closure of Bosch is indeed a blow to the south Wales economy and it will undoubtedly affect companies in the supply chain.

The Welsh Assembly Government have offered their support both to Bosch employees and to companies supplying the Miskin site and we will provide any assistance we can. In particular, it is vital that a new investor is found to make use of this well-located site just outside Cardiff so as to provide alternative employment for the skilled workers who are set to lose their jobs.

Indeed, I recently met German Industry UK representatives to discuss ways of encouraging German companies to see the potential of Wales as a great place to do business.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Systems: Referendums

John Glen: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what estimate the Electoral Commission has made of the likely cost to the public purse of a referendum on the alternative vote system for general elections. [6401]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Cabinet Office is currently developing cost estimates for the running of a national referendum.

The Commission further informs me that the estimated cost of its own activities would be approximately £9.3 million. This includes the costs of its activities in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities and of making grants of public money, up to a maximum of £600,000 each, available to the designated organisations appointed as lead campaigners for each of the referendum outcomes.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5723]

John Penrose: This information is available on our website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/our_sponsored_bodies/963.aspx

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present Administration; and at what cost. [6426]

John Penrose: As at 6 July 2010, one Minister has attended an induction course run by the National School of Government, and subsequently had a follow-up session. Both were at no cost to the Department.

Mobile Phones: Fees and Charges

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many individual respondents there were to Ofcom's Wholesale Mobile Call Termination Review; when he expects Ofcom to report its recommendations to his Department; and if he will make a statement. [5686]

Mr Vaizey: The Wholesale Mobile Call Termination Review is a consultation conducted by Ofcom, who operate independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Ofcom's chief executive to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for West Bromwich East and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Radio: Digital Broadcasting

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will delay or abolish the proposed switch-off of FM analogue broadcasting in light of its effect on poorer households. [5581]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* Around a quarter of all radio listening is now to digital, so a future transition to digital radio continues to gain impetus. However, the Government's policy is not to switch off FM. We believe that FM will continue to provide a platform for local and community radio for the foreseeable future.

It would not be in anyone's interest to force stations on to DAB or to switch off FM at a time when it would leave any local stations without an appropriate broadcast platform. The assurance we can give, therefore, is that FM will continue for as long as it is needed and viable.

With reference to the effect on poorer households, digital radios are portable, easy to use and affordable, with the cheapest models available for about £25, and manufacturers are committed to developing even more affordable DAB sets.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Young Offenders: Prosecutions

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Crown Prosecution Service spent on the prosecution of offenders under the age of 18 years in each of the last five years. [6501]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not capture and report data by reference to the defendant's date of birth and costs incurred.

However, the CPS is able to estimate the approximate internal costs of prosecuting offenders under the age of 18 for each of the last three years as:

	£
2007-08	35,500,000
2008-09	26,000,000
2009-10	22,500,000

Equivalent earlier data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not available in a comparable format due to a change of process for recording data implemented in 2005.

The costs have been calculated using the number of finalised defendants identified as being young offenders on the CPS case management system and applying the broad average cost of prosecutions using activity-based costing data.

The CPS does not capture the actual cost of individual prosecutions; to do so would require a time recording system and that would significantly increase the cost of running the service. However, the service does calculate the average cost of prosecutions through the application of activity-based costing techniques.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Government Assistance

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the boiler scrappage scheme in increasing energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [5859]

Gregory Barker: The boiler scrappage scheme was designed to help up to 125,000 households at a cost of £50 million. An initial assessment of the potential effectiveness of the boiler scrappage scheme indicated that the efficiency improvement from replacement of "G-rated" gas boilers with "A-rated" boilers was over 20%. Replacing a "G-rated" boiler with an "A-rated" boiler is calculated to save at least one tonne of CO_2 per boiler per annum in an average home. When the scheme has completed its payments to householders, there will be a final evaluation of the scheme.

Carbon Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what timetable has been set for a reduction in the level of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions; and if he will seek a commitment at EU level for a similar reduction in other EU countries. [5070]

Gregory Barker: The Climate Change Act 2008 sets greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of at least 34% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050 (both from the 1990 baseline). The first three carbon budgets, running from 2008 to 2012, 2013 to 2017 and 2018 to 2022, are set in line with the 34% target. This is based on an EU-wide emissions reduction of 20% from 1990 levels by 2020. We are pushing to secure early EU agreement to move to a more ambitious emissions reduction target of 30% below 1990 levels by 2020. When this has been agreed, and the methodology for sharing the effort between EU member states has been decided, the UK will move to a more ambitious 2020 target, following advice from the Committee on Climate Change and taking into account the views of the devolved Administrations.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the introduction of mandatory carbon reporting under section 85 of the Climate Change Act 2008. [6003]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers have not had recent discussions on this subject, but expect to discuss the issue in due course with DEFRA, the Department responsible for environmental reporting.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5968]

Gregory Barker: The following items have been recorded as lost or stolen from the Department in the last 12 months:

Item	*Lost*	*Stolen*
Laptops	1	3
RSA token	18	3
Entrust token	4	0
BlackBerry	4	3
3G dongle	1	0
Coat	0	1
Bag	0	1

Estimated costs for replacement is £7,000.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5720]

Gregory Barker: The information is as follows:

Civil Nuclear Police Authority: H280 Hinton House, Birchwood Park Avenue, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 6AS

The Coal Authority: 200 Lichfield Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 4RG

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Herdus House, Westlakes Science and Technology Park, Moor Row, Cumbria CA24 3HU

Committee on Climate Change: 4th Floor, Manning House, 22 Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1JA

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management Secretariat: Area 3D, 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW

Fuel Poverty Advisory Group: Area 1D, 3 Whitehall Place SW1A 2AW

Renewables Advisory Board: 3 Whitehall Place SW1A 2AW

Office for Nuclear Development: Area 3D, 3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW

UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee: Bay 116, 1 Victoria St, London, SW1H 0ET

Gas and Electricity Markets Authority: 9 Millbank, London SW1P 3GE

Nuclear Liabilities Fund: Farringdon Place, 20 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3AP

Electricity Generation: Planning Permission

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government the introduction of legislation to enable global environmental impact to be a consideration in deciding on planning applications for energy generating plants. [6241]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no plans to hold such discussions.

While the planning system can help to deliver mitigation of environmental impacts including climate change, it would not be proportionate to expect individual developers to consider global environmental impacts beyond the environmental assessments, including environmental impact assessments on major infrastructure projects, that they are already required to carry out.

Green Investment Bank

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will meet business representatives from Teesside to discuss the possible location of the Green Investment Bank in that area. [5057]

Gregory Barker: The Government will put forward detailed proposals for the creation of a Green Investment Bank following the spending review and will engage interested parties about the implementation of these proposals in due course.

Housing: Insulation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to retain the previous Government's target of insulating every home with cavity wall and loft insulation where technically possible by 2015. [5342]

Gregory Barker: The new Green Deal initiative will help us achieve, or exceed, the binding targets for carbon reductions set during the previous Administration. We will introduce a new finance package to make it as easy and attractive as possible for householders to lag their lofts, fill wall cavities, and take further steps to reduce their use of energy in the home. Households will be able to install not only the basic cavity and loft insulation measures, but go further to provide comprehensive packages for households that can deliver real energy, money and carbon savings.

In addition, the extension to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), which was announced last week and is expected to deliver insulation to 3.5 million households between April 2011 and December 2012, will ensure a rapid and significant increase in the rate at which we insulate homes over the next couple of years.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of payment of feed-in tariffs necessary to encourage take-up of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [5654]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* The impact assessment of feed-in tariffs for small scale, low carbon, Electricity Generation published on 1 February, and available from the DECC website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/fits

considered the levels of payment necessary to encourage take-up of the scheme.

This assessment estimated that tariff rates realising an index linked rate of return of 5 to 8% would incentivise 750,000 small scale low carbon electricity generating installations.

The FITs scheme has been running since 1 April and we are continually collecting data on uptake. As we learn more, this information will be fed into the review process.

Wind Power

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of wind turbines on nearby wildlife populations. [6217]

Charles Hendry: The UK operates strict controls to protect the natural environment, and any planning application for a wind farm which is likely to have a significant effect on the environment by virtue of factors such as size, nature or location is subject to an environmental impact assessment. Statutory nature conservation bodies are consulted upon the scope and outcomes of the environmental impact assessment.

Local and national planning authorities can and do refuse planning permission for proposed wind farms where there are likely to be significant impacts on local wildlife populations which cannot be acceptably mitigated. Where appropriate, conditions can be placed on a wind farm to ensure that any impacts on local wildlife populations are minimised, avoided or compensated. This may include post-development monitoring of wildlife.

The wildlife impacts of offshore windfarms are also looked at strategically as part of DECC's offshore energy strategic environmental assessment process. The most recent 2009 report concluded that up to 33GW of offshore wind could be installed without unacceptable environmental consequences, providing that suitable mitigation measures are incorporated on a site by site basis.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Air Conditioning Facilities

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission how many complaints have been made about air conditioning facilities in the offices of hon. Members and staff in *(a)* 1 Parliament Street, *(b)* Norman Shaw North, *(c)* Norman Shaw South, *(d)* the Palace of Westminster, *(e)* 7 Millbank and *(f)* Portcullis House in each of the last three years. [5706]

Sir Stuart Bell: A summary of all temperature-related works requests as recorded by the Parliamentary Estates Directorate's computerised case management system is as follows:

	Number of cases received		
	January to December 2007	*January to December 2008*	*January to December 2009*
1 Parliament Street	191	183	194
Norman Shaw North	54	47	56
Norman Shaw South	17	18	17
The Palace of Westminster	259	276	277
7 Millbank	56	40	84
Portcullis House	120	122	61

The information recorded on the case management system does not distinguish between complaints about air conditioning and all other temperature-related requests for work. Nor does it distinguish between offices and other parts of the Parliamentary Estate.

Departmental Security

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group had a Palace of Westminster security pass (i) suspended and (ii) revoked in each year since 2007; and for what reason in each case. [5442]

Sir Stuart Bell: Data on gender and age are not collected as part of the pass issue process. It is not possible to distinguish numbers of males and females in each age group who had passes suspended or revoked without disproportionate work.

Information on passes suspended and revoked in each year since November 2007 is set out in the following table. In each case the reason for the suspension or revocation was an investigation instigated by the sponsor of the pass. The detailed reason in each case has not been provided because it could identify the individual concerned.

	Number	*Status*
2007	2	Revoked
2007	2	Temporarily suspended
2008	7	Revoked
2008	3	Temporarily suspended
2009	11	Revoked
2009	9	Temporarily suspended
2010	2	Revoked

	Number	Status
2010	3	Temporarily suspended

Note:
These figures have been taken from the Pass Office database introduced in November 2007. Data prior to this date are archived and access would require modification to system software at disproportionate cost.

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission how many security passes allowing access to the Parliamentary Estate were issued in each category in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [5443]

Sir Stuart Bell: The number of security passes allowing access to the parliamentary estate issued in each category from 2007 to date is set out in the following table:

Pass category description	*2010*	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*
Contractor Works	794	1,406	1,221	229
Contractor Works Escort	165	267	221	55
Ex-Member	149	64	80	22
Full Pass Holder Both Houses	21	56	40	2
Full Pass Holder House of Commons	464	896	667	233
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Members Library	2	2	5	2
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Officer	112	171	161	65
Full Pass Holder House of Commons Whips	44	73	49	26
Full Pass Holder House of Lords	150	302	186	89
Full Pass Holder House of Lords Officer	26	79	38	24
Full Pass Holder House of Lords Whips	9	24	18	11
Full Pass Holder Staff of Both Houses	560	1,306	1,181	535
Full Pass Holder Staff of Both Houses Officer	50	78	52	42
Full Pass House of Commons	352	75	88	24
Full Pass House of Lords	77	114	80	61
Government Department Staff	507	2,079	2,278	799
Government Department Staff Escort	104	491	474	176
Gymnasium	46	80	97	33
Hereditary Peer	31	21	6	5
MEP	0	7	3	0
Media	46	88	95	24
Media Escort	19	34	27	7
Media Gallery	49	59	59	9
Media Lobby	111	172	152	32
Member	1,027	90	105	17
Member Staff	1,578	1,256	1,562	362
Member Staff Member Library	25	15	18	8
Peer Staff	246	475	431	124
Peers	180	222	144	78
Residents Guest	6	10	0	0
Restricted Pass Holder	216	413	366	108
Restricted Pass Holder Driver	75	77	79	18
Restricted Pass Holder Escort	22	52	53	16
Restricted Pass Holder Tour Guide	152	201	168	9
Retired Officer	2	3	1	9
Staff of Both Houses	328	486	441	148
Staff of Both Houses Escort	113	183	112	45
Staff of House of Commons	145	324	205	41
Staff of House of Commons Escort	19	23	18	7
Staff of House of Lords	87	182	91	20
Staff of House of Lords Escort	9	2	2	1

The figures above represent the number of passes printed in each category during each period and so include replacements for those that have been renewed, lost or have been reported faulty.

The figure of 1,027 passes issued in the Member category for 2010 includes 300 passes used during an exercise to test the New Members Reception Area prior to the general election.

The figures have been taken from the Pass Office database introduced in November 2007. Data prior to this date are archived and access would require modification to system software at disproportionate cost.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what proportion of the increase in the operational allowance will be met from *(a)* the Government reserve and *(b)* his Department's core defence budget. [4707]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* The operational allowance, currently estimated to be a total of £114 million in 2010-11, is drawn equally from the Government reserve and the core defence budget. This reflects the priority that this Government place on both supporting our armed forces on operations and putting the military covenant on a proper footing. The contribution made from the defence budget also acknowledges that, although total Defence expenditure has been protected in 2010-11, it is vital that all Departments prioritise resources to the front line, and assist in the key task of reducing the debt inherited by the new Government.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 663-66, on Afghanistan, what functions are to be supported by the £67 million for countering the threat from improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan. [5032]

Dr Fox: The allocation of an additional £67 million to support the campaign to counter the improvised explosive device (IED) threat in Afghanistan will result in a significant increase in the number of counter-IED teams in theatre. The additional capabilities they will be provided with, including protected vehicles and remote control vehicles, will increase the protection available to our armed forces, and will enhance their ability to defeat these devices. In this way, the additional capabilities will contribute significantly to the safety not only of our armed forces and our allies but also members of the Afghanistan National Security Forces and the local population, who are also victims of the indiscriminate use of IEDs.

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of expenditure on military operations in Afghanistan in each year from 2002-03 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [6141]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* The net additional costs incurred on military operations in Afghanistan (Operation Herrick) are met by the HM Treasury-administered Government reserve and are in addition to the core defence budget. The costs that the Department would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—training exercises, for example—are taken into account in arriving at the net figures.

The annual audited figures for the costs of operations in Afghanistan since 2002-03 are provided in the following table:

							£ million
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Resource	236	36	58	148	560	1,071	1,655
Capital Costs	75	10	9	51	178	433	968
Total	311	46	67	199	738	1,504	2,623

The Estimated Cost of Operations[1] in Afghanistan at Spring Supplementary Estimates (SSE) for Financial Year 2009-10 is in the following table:

[1] The outturn figures for Afghanistan have not yet been audited by the NAO and as such, I am only able to provide the figures at this time.

SSE forecast 2009-10

	(£ million)
Resource	2,515
Capital	1,672
Total estimated costs	4,187

The Estimated Cost of Operations in Afghanistan at Main Estimate for FY 2010-11 is as follows:

ME forecast 2010-11

	(£ million)
Resource	2,940
Capital	1,496
Total estimated costs	4,436

The figures for 2010-11 exclude the costs of the doubling of the operational allowance (estimated to be in the region of £57 million) that are being paid by the core defence budget, reflecting the priority that this Government place on both supporting our armed forces on operations and rebuilding the military covenant. This also acknowledges that, although total defence expenditure has been protected in 2010-11, it is vital that all Departments prioritise resources to the front line and assist in the key task of reducing Government debt inherited from the previous Administration.

Army: Discharges

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of each regiment of the Army were discharged in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [5728]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* Members of the Army can be discharged for a variety of reasons, including on medical grounds, as a result of administrative or disciplinary action, reaching the end of an engagement and when an individual leaves the Army voluntarily.

Due to the way in which information is captured on the Joint Personnel Administration system, discharge information by individual regiment is not available.

The number of discharges for each arm and corps in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is shown in the following table. The figures are for trained regular personnel only, and for 2007-08 include other categories of departure such as death and long-term absence.

Arm/corps	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Staff	n/a	70
Household Cavalry/ Royal Armoured Corps	610	570
Royal Regiment of Artillery	850	720
Corps of Royal Engineers	1,010	930
Royal Corps of Signals	800	740
Infantry	3,480	2,330
Army Air Corps	180	170
Royal Logistics Corps	1,660	1,480
Royal Army Medical Corps	190	230
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	940	920
Adjutant General's Corps	590	570
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	20	20
Small Arms School Corps	10	10
Royal Army Dental Corps	20	20
Intelligence Corps	100	140
Army Physical Training Corps	[1]—	30
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	30	70
Corps of Army Music	70	60
Long Service List	n/a	60
No Value (Unknown)	70	[2]—
Royal Army Chaplain's Department	n/a	10
Total	10,680	9,160

[1] denotes zero.

[2] denotes fewer than five.

'n/a' denotes information is not available.

Note:

All figures are provisional due to Joint Personnel Administration system data validation issues. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiments in the British Army provide *(a)* psychiatric advice, *(b)* psychological advice, *(c)* advice on re-skilling and continued education, *(d)* advice on resettlement, *(e)* advice on debt management, *(f)* advice on alcohol misuse, *(g)* advice on drug misuse, *(h)* advice on re-employment and (i) advice on behavioural issues including anger management to soldiers who are being discharged. [5729]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* The Royal Army Medical Corps will provide psychiatric advice, psychological advice, advice on alcohol misuse, advice on drug misuse and advice on behavioural issues if it is needed. The Adjutant General's Corps (Education and Training Services) provides advice through specifically trained staff, or by practical workshops, on re-skilling and continued education, on resettlement, on re-employment, and the financial aspects of resettlement.

These arrangements are complemented by the Chain of Command and welfare staff. All service leavers are made aware of ex-service charities and welfare organisations as part of the process and are able to take advantage of career counselling services up to two years after having left. Lifetime job-finding support is available through either the Officers Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resettlement advice is given before discharge to soldiers who have served fewer than four years; and if he will make a statement. [5730]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* All service leavers are entitled to some form of resettlement advice. For those early service leavers who have served for fewer than four years this advice is given by a specially trained unit interviewing officer. Issues such as access to ex-service welfare organisations, housing advice, job-finding support as well as financial matters are covered. Information is provided by a one-to-one discussion and a comprehensive information pack. If it is considered necessary, for example for those vulnerable to social exclusion, access to a Service Resettlement Advisor will be available.

For those service leavers, regardless of time served, who are medically discharged a full resettlement package is available through the Career Transition Partnership.

Clyde Submarine Base

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what shortfalls in the Clyde safety management arrangements have been identified by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator at HMNB Clyde; what steps will be taken to address those shortfalls; and when he expects those shortfalls to have been addressed. [5350]

Peter Luff: Following an inspection, a demonstration exercise or permissioning of an activity, the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) may identify and agree findings of non-compliance with authorisation conditions. Findings are tracked and reviewed monthly, quarterly or annually depending on their significance.

DNSR has identified one finding relating to the HMNB Clyde safety management arrangements, which is as follows:

> "The process to define how Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde's Intelligent Customer role is fulfilled needs to be established within Safety Management Arrangements. This process must define the Intelligent Customer function and ensure that stakeholders, such as BAE Systems, MOD Project Teams and other suppliers of supporting services have adequate reciprocal arrangements."

As a result of this finding, the role of intelligent customer has been addressed through a wider review. The organisational change proposal associated with that review has been endorsed by the Clyde Nuclear Safety Committee and has now been delivered to DNSR for consideration, with the aim of resolving the issue within two to three months.

Defence

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what opportunities are available for hon. Members and Members of the House of Lords to contribute to the strategic defence and security review. [5367]

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what opportunities are available for *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* Members of the House of Lords to contribute to the strategic defence and security review. [5373]

Dr Fox: The Government scheduled a debate on the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) on 21 June. In that debate I invited Members of both Houses to make submissions on the review formally to me. In addition, there will be further such opportunities in the House to debate the matter before the SDSR concludes.

Departmental Catering

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4853]

Mr Robathan: Catering for Ministry of Defence civilian personnel employed at United Kingdom Defence establishments is provided through Regional Prime Contracts administered by Defence Estates or under multi-activity contracts. UK-based armed forces personnel are primarily catered for through catering, retail and leisure contracts (incorporating Pay As You Dine arrangements), which are being introduced across the UK. Some 62% of armed forces personnel are catered for under these arrangements. Information on the amount spent on catering under these contracts is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For United Kingdom armed forces personnel "in barracks" (when personnel are not being fed under catering, retail and leisure contracts), and those serving on operations and overseas exercises, there is a single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd. The total value, including the cost of food, administration and transport, for financial years 2001-02 to 2008-09 was as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	113
2002-03	114
2003-04	139
2004-05	128

	£ million
2005-06	139
2006-07	135
2007-08	145
2008-09	176

The Department has also procured Operational Ration Packs over the same period for which the cost was as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	14.6
2002-03	16.6
2003-04	26.7
2004-05	23.7
2005-06	15.6
2006-07	15.3
2007-08	18.1
2008-09	25.4

The figures for the period 1997 to 2000 are not available.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5722]

Mr Robathan: A copy of the information requested will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3635]

(2) how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3657]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently reviewing all aspects of defence activity as part of the Government's Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). The conclusion of the SDSR is likely to require MOD to renegotiate specific contracts, but no decisions have yet been made. In the interim, MOD is participating in the actions announced by the Chancellor on 24 May to reduce public spending.

Departmental Travel

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name and *(b)* version is of each computer software package used by his Department to calculate its expenditure on travel. [3706]

Dr Fox: The Department currently uses two separate systems to calculate expenditure on travel.

The armed forces use a system called the Joint Personnel Administration System based on Oracle E-Business Suite version 11.5.10. The self-service element used by service personnel to input information is Oracle I-Expenses version 11.5.10. Some travel and subsistence costs are recorded via the payroll function, based on Oracle Payroll version 11.5.10.

For civilian personnel a system called Human Resources Management Systems, which is a customised version Oracle PeopleSoft version 8.8 is used to authenticate the user's identity and gain access to self-service e-forms. The e-forms provide an interface to the MOD's civilian expenses payments and accounting system known as Compact, which is an in-house developed system including Oracle database version 8.1.7.4.0 and exploiting Oracle Forms 9i and PL/SQL scripts.

Information from both these systems feeds into the Defence Financial Management Information System where the expenditure is recorded under MOD's Resource Accounting Codes.

Guided Weapons

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will propose an agreement with the governments of China, France and Russia to exchange and publish aerial and remote sensing photographs of missile sites in each country. [4795]

Dr Fox: The UK does not have any geographically permanent missile sites. The UK shares military information, including aerial imagery, with signatories of the open skies agreement, which includes Russia and France, but not China, to promote openness and transparency between treaty members.

NATO: Medals

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will consider the merits of allowing members of the armed forces to wear the NATO International Security Assistance Force Medal in public. [5371]

Mr Robathan: The official UK medal for Afghanistan is the Operational Service Medal—Afghanistan. Members of the armed forces do not have permission to accept the NATO International Security Assistance Force Medal, because the current policy on medals is that there should be no double medalling.

The Government will be reviewing the rules governing the award of medals in line with the commitment made in the coalition 'Programme for Government'.

RAF St Athan

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the likely effect on the morale of members of the armed forces and their families of the proposed transfer of naval engineering training facilities to RAF St Athan. [5372]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* While all activity is subject to the Strategic Defence and Security Review, on current plans HMS Sultan is programmed to be one of the last units to relocate to St Athan, and will do so by 2020. I am very aware how unsettling a move such as this can be, but I am confident that the chain of command will manage the change as smoothly as possible.

Trident Missiles

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will undertake not to seek an update of the Trident D5 system during the period of discussions between China, France, Russia, the UK and the US on future nuclear disarmament following the UN Review of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. [4794]

Dr Fox: The 2010 review conference was an important milestone for the UK's long-term vision for a world without nuclear weapons. The UK has made it clear that, as soon as it becomes useful for the UK to include its nuclear stockpiles in broader disarmament negotiations, we stand ready to participate and to act.

Maintaining the UK's nuclear deterrent beyond the life of the current system is fully consistent with our obligations as a recognised nuclear weapon state under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Therefore, the UK will continue to progress in replacing our existing nuclear deterrent.

Turkey: Military Bases

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to support the denuclearisation of the NATO air base at Incirlik. [4909]

Dr Fox: NATO's Strategic Concept (paragraph 63) states that:

> "nuclear forces based in Europe and committed to NATO provide an essential political and military link between the European and the North American members of the Alliance. The Alliance will therefore maintain adequate nuclear forces in Europe."

www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_27433.htm

It is NATO and UK policy to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at a given location.

Weapons

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on animal testing for the purpose of developing weapons. [5503]

Peter Luff: Dstl Porton Down undertakes the Ministry of Defence research programme that involves the use of animals. In accordance with Home Office guidance it is Dstl policy that living animals are not used to develop weapons.

JUSTICE

Legal Aid

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legal aid funding provided by his Department through Shelter UK to support vulnerable families in housing need. [5666]

Mr Djanogly: Shelter UK, like all holders of the Legal Services Commission (LSC) contracts, undergoes a regular assessment of its performance against the contract. Shelter has also successfully undergone 'Peer Review' which is a quality assurance tool developed and managed by the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in which an experienced practitioner trained in the peer review framework reviews a sample of a supplier's case files to measure the quality of the advice it offers.

Another indicator of effectiveness is the LSC's key performance indicator (KPI) recording the level of cases that accorded a 'Substantive Benefit' to the client. The purpose of the substantive benefit KPI is to ensure that the cases undertaken by providers are concluded with a definable benefit for the client. This is an indication of the quality of work of the supplier. In the case of cases conducted by Shelter UK, this figure has always been greatly in excess of the required minimum level of 40%.

By the very nature of legal aid eligibility, the LSC only pays Shelter to deliver cases that focus on and assist the most vulnerable of housing clients.

Care Proceedings

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much time was spent on court time on care hearings in *(a)* preparation and *(b)* court in each of the last five years. [5762]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is unavailable. Information on the in-court time of cases is not collected centrally on administrative data systems. The only means to collect these data would be the inspection of each individual case file which would incur disproportionate cost.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the Legal Services Commission spent on solicitors' and counsels' fees in care proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [5766]

(2) how much the Legal Services Commission spent on psychological and psychiatric assessments in care proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [5765]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) spent £252.6 million on certificates in care proceedings on cases that closed in the 12 months ending 31 May 2010. This figure includes solicitor fees, counsel fees, and disbursements. The amounts paid under the disbursement includes the costs of psychiatric and psychological reports where commissioned by the legal service provider.

However, the LSC do not separately record the costs of psychological and psychiatric assessments from other disbursements incurred in care proceedings. Such assessments are commissioned independently by the solicitors which are, where appropriate, paid for by the LSC as part of the overall disbursements claimed by the solicitors.

Parents, children and those with parental responsibility are granted legal aid on a non means, non merits tested basis where the local authority issues proceedings for a care order to be made in respect of a child. For other parties who may become involved in the proceedings, such as relatives, funding is also available but a means and merits test will be applied.

In addition to the costs of solicitors and counsel, disbursements will also be incurred, for expert reports, interpreters etc.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many care proceedings cases reached the threshold for high cost cases in each of the last five years. [5767]

Mr Djanogly: The following volume of all public law Children Act certificates have been approved for costs of above £25,000, which is the criterion for very high cost case. This covers care and supervision cases. Please note that the costs can cover several certificates where a solicitor is representing a number of siblings.

	Certificates
2005-06	1,866
2006-07	1,272
2007-08	[1]613
2008-09	1,280
2009-10	1,774

[1] There was a change in operational procedures in 2006-07 which temporarily reduced the number of certificates approved with costs above £25,000 in advance of the final hearing.

Corruption: Public service

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the members are of the Foreign Bribery Strategy Board; and on what dates the Board has met. [5612]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following Departments and agencies are regular members of the Foreign Bribery Strategy Board:

Attorney-General's Office, Association of Chief Police Officers, Cabinet Office, City of London Police, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Office, Crown Prosecution Service, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Department for International Development, Export Credit Guarantee Department, Financial Services Authority, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency, Office of Government Commerce, Serious Fraud Office and UK Trade and Investment.

Other Departments and agencies are invited as required by the agenda.

The Foreign Bribery Strategy Board has met five times; 11 September 2009, 22 October 2009, 17 December 2009, 27 January 2010 and 21 April 2010.

Council of Europe Prisoner Transfer Convention

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners he expects to return to *(a)* France, *(b)* Romania, *(c)* the Netherlands, *(d)* Lithuania, *(e)* Ireland, *(f)* Poland, *(g)* the Russian Federation and *(h)* Latvia to serve their sentences under the Council of Europe Prisoner Transfer Convention in 2010-11; [6035]

(2) how many prisoners he expects to return to the UK from *(a)* France, *(b)* Romania, *(c)* Netherlands, *(d)* Lithuania, *(e)* Ireland, *(f)* Poland, *(g)* Russia and *(h)* Latvia in 2010-11 to serve their sentences under the Council of Europe prisoner transfer convention. [6655]

Mr Blunt: The Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons provides for transfer on a voluntary basis. As transfer requires the consent of both states involved and that of the prisoner, it is not possible to estimate how many applications will be approved in 2010-11. However, applications have been received from 49 prisoners who are seeking transfer from the countries listed. See following table.

Country	*Number of repatriation applicants*
France	6
Latvia	0
Lithuania	0
The Netherlands	26
Poland	0
The Republic of Ireland	14
Romania	1
Russian Federation	2

In addition, since 1 April 2010, five prisoners have been transferred to prisons in the Netherlands and one prisoner has been transferred to Lithuania.

Courts: Closures

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to take account of *(a)* socio-economic factors, *(b)* geographic factors and *(c)* the adequacy of public transport links in the south Wales valleys in his implementation of proposals for the closure of magistrates and county courts. [5870]

Mr Djanogly: The proposals are currently out to public consultation and an initial impact assessment has been produced. The impacts, costs and benefits of the proposed court closures will be considered more fully during the consultation phase and a full impact assessment will be produced alongside the consultation responses.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his proposals to *(a)* merge and *(b)* close courts on the workload of each remaining magistrates court. [6331]

Mr Djanogly: An initial impact assessment has been produced for the consultations. The impacts, costs and benefits of the proposed court closures and bench mergers will be considered more fully during the consultation phase and a full impact assessment will be produced alongside the consultation responses.

Utilisation rates currently average 64% across the magistrates courts. Courtroom utilisation is the time a courtroom is used, against the hours that a courtroom is available for use. The Government's aim is to increase utilisation of courtroom time to at least 80%. If the proposed closures went ahead and workload was transferred to surrounding courts it is estimated that it would result in a national utilisation rate in the magistrates courts of around 80%.

Additionally, there was an average of 130 sitting days per county courtroom per year in 2009-10. It is estimated that the proposed closures of county courts would result in an average of around 200 sitting days per county courtroom per year.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for that purpose. [5199]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice aims to ensure equality and diversity is at the heart of all we deliver and is an integral part of the work of all our staff.

Across the various functions of the Ministry there is a range of equality and diversity work being undertaken in different ways as part of policy making, service delivery and staff support.

However, to disaggregate this annual spend, and estimate percentages devoted to the promotion of equality and diversity across the Ministry would incur disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine levied on a person convicted of an offence under section *(a)* 14(3) and *(b)* 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 was in the last 12 months. [5439]

Mr Blunt: The average fine imposed at all courts in England and Wales for offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988, sections 14 and 15, for 2008 (latest available) is given in the table. It is not possible to separately identify section 14(3) from other offences in sections 14 and 15.

Section 41D gave authority to existing regulations, under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, to make certain offences endorsable. The average fine imposed at all courts for these offences are also given in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

The average fine imposed at all courts for selected offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988[1] and Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, England and Wales, 2008[2, 3]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Average fine (£)*
Road Traffic Act 1988—sections 14(1) (2) & (3), 15(1)(A) (2) & (4), & 15B.	Seat belt offences	66
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986—R.110(1).	Use of hand held mobile phone while driving	101
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986—R.110(2).	Causing or permitting the use of a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle	82
Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986—R.110(3).	Using a mobile phone while supervising the holder of a provisional driving licence to drive a motor vehicle on the road	114

[1] It is not possible to separately identify section 14(3) from other offences in sections 14 and 15.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been of people of each sex in each age group in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Southend for the offence of driving while using a hand-held mobile telephone since the creation of that offence. [5438]

Mr Blunt: The information requested was previously given in an answer to the hon. Gentleman on 8 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 86W. The following table provides data up to 2008 (latest available). Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Court proceedings data are not available at town or parliamentary constituency level.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving[1], by sex and age, England and Wales and the Essex police force area, 2004 to 2008[2, 3]

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[4]*	*2008[3, 4]*
England and Wales					
Males					
Aged 20 and under	16	31	27	374	849
Aged 21 and over	429	1,008	1,282	9,282	22,800
Total	445	1,039	1,309	9,656	23,649
Females					
Aged 20 and under	3	3	5	70	165
Aged 21 and over	34	126	137	1,185	3,179
Total	37	129	142	1,255	3,344
Persons					
Aged 20 and under	19	34	32	444	1,018
Aged 21 and over	463	1,134	1,419	10,467	26,074
Total	482	1,168	1,451	10,911	27,092
of which:					
Essex police force area					
Males					
Aged 20 and under	2	1	—	14	57
Aged 21 and over	16	35	32	453	1,566

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving[1], by sex and age, England and Wales and the Essex police force area, 2004 to 2008[2, 3]

Area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[4]*	*2008[5, 6]*
Total	18	36	32	467	1,623
Females					
Aged 20 and under	1	—	—	9	10
Aged 21 and over	3	5	7	69	274
Total	4	5	7	78	284
Persons					
Aged 20 and under	3	1	—	23	67
Aged 21 and over	19	40	39	522	1,847
Total	22	41	39	545	1,914

[1] Statute: Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 - R. 110(1), R. 110(2) and R. 110(3). Introduced 1 December 2003. *Offence description:* R.110(1) use of a hand-held mobile phone while driving; R.110(2) causing or permitting the use of a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle R.110(3) using a mobile phone while supervising the holder of a provisional driving licence to drive a motor vehicle on the road.

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Tough new penalties for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving and for failing to have proper control of a vehicle came into effect on 27 February 2007.

[5] Excludes convictions for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[6] The gender of a defendant proceeded against may not have been reported. These data have been included in the persons only totals. Therefore, the males and females age group totals and sub-totals may not agree with the totals given under persons.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Magistrates' Courts: Bradford

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to extend the operating hours at Bradford magistrates court. [5037]

Mr Djanogly: One of the purposes of the consultation on the closure of a number of courts is to improve utilisation. Currently HM Courts Service has excess capacity in magistrates when compared to the demand. As such there are no plans to extend the operating hours; the current operating hours are considered sufficient.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much unused *(a)* physical courtroom capacity and *(b)* court time there is at Bradford magistrates court; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of unused capacity at Bradford magistrates court to accommodate current levels of work at Bingley magistrates court. [5039]

Mr Djanogly: Bradford magistrates court has 10 courtrooms; Keighley magistrates court (sitting at Bingley) has four courtrooms.

Based on local HMCS management information, for the 12-month period ending 30 April 2010 the average rolling monthly courtroom utilisation rate for Bradford magistrates court was 63.7%. For the same period, the average rolling monthly courtroom utilisation rate for Keighley magistrates court was 70.8%. The utilisation percentages are arrived at by comparing actual court sitting times with the time available (five hours being the length of a court in session for a day).

In April 2010 the Bradford family proceedings court and family casework moved from the magistrates court to the Bradford combined court where a new hearing room has been created.

The assessment in light of the above is that there is sufficient capacity at Bradford magistrates court to accommodate the work of the Keighley magistrates court.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the initial incidental cost to the public purse of transferring the work of Bingley magistrates court to Bradford magistrates court. [5040]

Mr Djanogly: Following the public consultation, should the decision be made to close Keighley magistrates court (sitting at Bingley), analysis of the costs and benefits of transferring the work of the court will be included in the impact assessment to be produced after the consultation period.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effects on the *(a)* cost and *(b)* duration of journeys between prison and court of the merging of Bradford magistrates court and Bingley magistrates court. [5041]

Mr Djanogly: Details of the impacts of any closure on prison journeys will be included in the impact assessment that will be produced following the consultation period.

It is 12 miles from HMP Leeds to Keighley magistrates court (situated in Bingley) and it would take approximately 24 minutes to travel this distance. It is eight miles from HMP Leeds to Bradford magistrates court and it would take approximately 16 minutes to travel this distance.

During the three months from March to May 2010 there were 52 prisoner journeys to Bingley. If these journeys were to Bradford rather than Bingley there would be an overall reduction of around £250.

Magistrates Courts: Greater London

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons he proposes to merge the local justice areas of Lambeth and Southwark, Croydon and Sutton. [5042]

Mr Djanogly: The reasons for the proposed local justice area (LJA) mergers in London are set out on page 9 of consultation paper HMCS CP 12/10.

In inner London, LJAs generally cover two London boroughs; in outer London, LJAs cover one. This constrains our deployment of judiciary and distribution of work load.

We are consulting on a proposal to reduce the number of LJAs because fewer local areas will make it possible for us to administer work more efficiently and distribute work more effectively, unconstrained by existing borough boundaries.

By being able to move work across borough boundaries more easily, to other courts where existing capacity is not fully used, we will improve courtroom utilisation and thereby make better use of courtroom capacity and, in turn, magistrates' time. The proposed mergers will also reduce the costs associated with administering the current 28 LJAs and facilitate the more efficient deployment of staff.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of adapting Camberwell Green magistrates court to accommodate work transferred from Tower Bridge magistrates court. [5043]

Mr Djanogly: While the proposed closure of Tower Bridge magistrates court forms part of the current consultation exercise, it has been under consideration for several years as part of HMCS London Region's aspiration to improve magistrates court facilities and services across central and south London. The strategy that has been developed envisages the replacement of a number of old, inefficient courthouses with three larger, more modern and operationally efficient courthouses. The first of these, the new Westminster magistrates court in Marylebone, is due to open next year.

Within this overall strategy, the plan for Camberwell Green is to redevelop the site to construct five additional courtrooms. This plan has not been designed solely to facilitate the closure of Tower Bridge magistrates court, although expansion would allow closure and disposal of the freehold courthouse. The key driver is to enable HMCS to improve and modernise the facilities available to court users and generate greater listing flexibility. The operationally-preferred option also creates further capacity for international jurisdiction work in response to significant workload growth in this area of business.

Indicative costings only exist at present; depending on the expansion option chosen, total works costs range between £9.3 million-£11.5 million. Inevitably the scheme and any consequential closure would only progress once funding becomes available. This will be determined as part of Spending Review deliberations later this year.

National Offender Management Service

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of senior managers in the National Offender Management Service have a background in *(a)* the probation service and *(b)* the prison service. [5668]

Mr Blunt: The prison and probation services operate within the framework of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency. For historical reasons the two services have different employment structures. Prison service staff are civil servants and are directly employed by the NOMS Agency. Probation service staff are not civil servants and are employed by a probation trust.

Information on the career histories of senior managers within NOMS does not include national probation service experience. It is therefore not possible, without individually contacting all senior managers, to determine how many have worked in the probation service. Probation service experience is provided by staff on secondment from probation trusts although the number of such staff across NOMS is not recorded.

Previous experience within prison service establishments is recorded. Of the 898 senior managers working in NOMS who are civil servants, 281 (31%) are currently based in prisons, 216 (24%) are currently based in headquarters but have previously served in prison establishments and 401 (45%) have no record of prison experience. Working in an establishment does not necessarily imply a prisoner facing role.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much has been spent on offender management services commissioned by each Director of Offender Management since their inception; [5658]

(2) what proportion of the expenditure on services commissioned by each Director of Offender Management since their inception was allocated to *(a)* voluntary sector and *(b)* private sector organisations. [5659]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 as follows shows the amount spent on Offender Management Services commissioned by each Director of Offender Management since their inception on 1 April 2009.

Table 1

Region	*Prisons*	*Probation*	*Total*
South West	178,957,314	66,451,730	245,409,044
West Midlands	196,365,763	98,029,900	294,395,663
London	177,676,936	153,962,000	331,638,936
North East	111,633,668	53,169,841	164,803,509
Wales	91,542,106	58,372,000	149,914,106
Yorkshire and the Humber	201,135,803	95,864,000	296,999,803
North West	361,560,346	78,000,695	439,561,041
East of England	199,155,852	72,560,730	271,716,582
South East	356,241,895	101,735,564	457,977,459
East Midlands	248,601,223	68,748,770	317,349,993
Total	2,122,870906	846,895,230	2,969,766,136

Table 2 as follows shows the proportion of the expenditure of services commissioned by each Director of Offender Management allocated to the voluntary sector and private sector organisations. This will include figures contained in Table 1 for private sector prisons.

Table 2

Region	*Voluntary sector*	*Private Sector*	*Total*
South West	0	23,141,092	23,141,092
West Midlands	220,000	32,448,310	32,668,310
London	0	0	0
North East	0	0	0
Wales	504,752	45,414,027	45,918,779
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,438,803	32,838,000	36,276,803
North West	578,000	133,939,652	134,517,652
East of England	1,736,922	31,292,633	33,029,555
South East	0	24,401,273	24,401,273
East Midlands	31036	45,964,340	45,995,376
Total	6,509,513	369,439,327	375,948,840

The financial data in both tables represent actual expenditure for the financial year 2009-10. The information provided is the expenditure directly commissioned by each Director of Management Services.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many senior managers of grades A to D in the prison service are employed by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS); and of these how many are based *(a)* at NOMS headquarters and *(b)* elsewhere. [5669]

Mr Blunt: On 31 March 2010 there are 898 senior managers employed within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). Of these 281 are based in establishments and 617 are based in NOMS headquarters, which includes offices across the nine English regions and Wales and the National Shared Service Centre.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5713]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is responsible for over 30 distinct non-department public bodies. I have placed details of the office addresses of each non-departmental body for which the Ministry is responsible in the Libraries of both Houses.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* imprisonment and *(b)* rehabilitation of offenders under the age of 18 years in each of the last five years. [6500]

Mr Blunt: The cost of custody for under-18s reflects the intensive, rehabilitative regime in the under 18 estate—including the delivery of specific rehabilitation activity, for example education and substance misuse programmes.

The figures in the following table taken from published Youth Justice Board annual reports show the cost of purchasing places and regimes for children and young people in the secure estate.

	Cost (£ million)
2004-05	245.804
2005-06	280.801
2006-07	279.148
2007-08	305.711
2008-09	297.952

All services commissioned or delivered by Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to young people within the criminal justice system are intended to rehabilitate them and address the causes of their offending behaviour.

The figures in the following table taken from published YJB annual reports show that it allocated the following funding to YOTs for the delivery of such services to 10 to 17-year-olds within the criminal justice system.

	Allocated funding (£ million)
2004-05	94.410
2005-06	104.993
2006-07	113.698
2007-08	114.856
2008-09	117.310

The Youth Offending Teams also receive financial contributions from local police, probation and health services; from the local authority; and from the Welsh Assembly Government where appropriate.

Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people given custodial sentences of less than 12 months in each of the last two years were convicted of each type of offence. [5364]

Mr Blunt: The requested information is provided in the following tables. The data show the total number of immediate custody of less than 12 months for each offence type and suspended custodial sentences for each offence type.

Number of immediate custodial sentences of less than 12 months, by offence type, 2007-08

Immediate custody	*2007*	*2008*
Violence against the person	5,680	6,252
Sexual offences	396	447
Burglary	4,249	4,432
Robbery	663	640
Theft and handling stolen goods	17,935	19,280
Fraud and forgery	3,434	3,614
Criminal damage	786	616
Drug offences	2,045	2,201
Other indictable (excluding motoring)	6,329	6,181
Indictable motoring offences	1,006	869
Summary non-motoring	13.275	14,086
Summary motoring offences	7,892	6,378
Total	63,690	64,996

Number of suspended sentences by offence type, 2007-08

Suspended sentences	*2007*	*2008*
Violence against the person	7,167	7,501
Sexual offences	439	424
Burglary	2,405	2,432
Robbery	452	444
Theft and handling stolen goods	6,700	6,818

Number of suspended sentences by offence type, 2007-08

Suspended sentences	*2007*	*2008*
Fraud and forgery	2,391	2,780
Criminal damage	525	453
Drug offences	2,678	2,958
Other indictable (excluding motoring)	3,624	3,794
Indictable motoring offences	873	851
Summary non-motoring	7,266	7,696
Summary motoring offences	6,168	5,000
Total	40,688	41,151

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system
2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
3. Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who were given custodial sentences of up to six months in the latest year for which figures are available were convicted of each offence. [6084]

Mr Blunt: The requested information is available in the following table.

Persons sentenced to immediate custody at all courts by offence 2008

Offence	*Up to and including six months*	*Total immediate custody (all sentence lengths)*
Absconding from Lawful Custody	234	291
Abstracting Electricity	19	23
Abuse of trust- sexual offences	11	22
Aggravated Vehicle Taking	342	719
Arson	67	524
Assault: Common, etc	6,698	6,698
Assault: On Constable	1,777	1,778
Assist Entry of Illegal Immigrant	232	402
Bankruptcy Offence	15	27
Betting or Gaming Offence	8	8
Bigamy	2	4
Blackmail	7	124
Brothel Keeping	20	20
Buggery	1	30
Burglary in a Building Other than a Dwelling	2,241	3,250
Burglary in a Dwelling	1,322	6,446
Causing Death by Reckless Driving	1	206
Child Abduction	1	22
Criminal Damage Endangering Life	6	42
Cruelty to Animal	71	71
Cruelty to or Neglect of Children	40	133
Dangerous Driving	479	1,386
Disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements	16	17
Disorderly Behaviour	5	5
Driving licence related offences: Making false statements	2	2
Drug Offence	47	47
Drunkenness, with Aggravation	6	6
Education Acts	28	28
Endangering Life at Sea	1	1
Endangering Railway Passenger	5	11
Exploitation of Prostitution	9	51
Failing to Surrender to Bail	2,343	2,347
False Accounting	13	61
Familial Sexual Offences (Incest)	1	72
Firearms Act Offence	102	581
Firearms Acts	32	32
Fishery Acts	2	2
Forgery etc. of Drug Prescription	7	12
Fraud, Forgery etc associated with Vehicle or Driver Records	8	9
Going Equipped for Stealing, etc.	395	441
Gross Indecency with Children	2	38
Handling Stolen Goods	1,055	1,498
Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974	5	8
Immigration Offence	40	40
Interference with Motor Vehicles	298	298
Kidnapping, etc.	2	310
Miscellaneous sexual offences	87	172
Money laundering offences	96	408
Naval, Military and Air Force Law - Army	1	1
Offence against Public Order	1,381	1,383
Offences involving impersonation	1	1
Offences Relating to Dogs	10	10
Other (Excluding Motoring Offences)	160	319
Other Criminal Damage	425	496
Other drug offences	56	478
Other Forgery etc.	1,049	3,338
Other Fraud	1,065	2,211
Other Offence	2	2
Other Offence against the Liquor Law	3	3
Other Offence against the State or Public Order	835	2,030
Other Summary Offence (Excluding Motoring)	1,212	1,213
Other Theft or Unauthorised Taking	1,543	1,729
Other Wounding etc.	4,629	10,368
Perjury	19	46
Perverting the Course of Justice	429	797
Possession of a controlled drug - Class A	870	985
Possession of a controlled drug - Class B	108	114
Possession of a controlled drug - Class C	296	316
Possession of a controlled drug - Class unspecified	5	11
Possession of Obscene Material etc.	135	515
Procuring Illegal Abortion	1	1
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug - Class A	116	4,984
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug - Class B	45	379
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug - Class C	275	1,179
Production, supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug - Class unspecified	1	278

Persons sentenced to immediate custody at all courts by offence 2008

Offence	*Up to and including six months*	*Total immediate custody (all sentence lengths)*
Prostitution - Kerb Crawling	42	42
Protection from Eviction Act 1977	1	1
Public Health	6	11
Railway Offence	11	11
Robbery	317	5,095
Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder	1	14
Sexual Activity with child under 13	7	105
Sexual Activity with child under 16	17	467
Sexual Assault on a Female	139	991
Sexual Assault on a Male	8	131
Sexual Offences- Miscellaneous	1	1
Social Security Offence	31	31
Stage Carriage or Public Service Vehicle Offence	4	4
Summary Aggravated Vehicle Taking	349	351
Summary Criminal or Malicious Damage Offence	1,253	1,253
Summary Motoring Offences	6,377	6,378
Theft by an Employee	133	305
Theft from Automatic Machine or Meter	53	73
Theft from Shops	12,390	12,584
Theft from the Person of Another	1,324	1,957
Theft from Vehicle	1,020	1,073
Theft in Dwelling not Automatic Machine or Meter	229	259
Theft of Motor Vehicle	198	255
Theft of Pedal Cycle	91	91
Theft or Unauthorised Taking from Mail	22	34
Threat etc.. to commit Criminal Damage	66	95
Threat or Conspiracy to Murder	37	201
Trade Descriptions Act and Similar Offences	232	290
Unauthorised Taking of a Conveyance	691	691
Unlawful exportation - Class unspecified	1	3
Unlawful importation - Class A	1	525
Unlawful importation - Class B	1	19
Unlawful importation - Class C	4	169
Unlawful importation - Class unspecified	2	26
Unlawful Possession	1	1
Vagrancy Offences - Begging	1	1
Vagrancy Offences - Found In Enclosed Premises	55	55
Vehicle insurance offences: Making false statements	4	5
Video Recording Act 1984	2	2
Violent Disorder	54	349
Wounding or other act Endangering Life	27	1,632

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

3. Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics - Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice Ref: PQ(JSAS) 6084 (02/07/2010)

Prison Service: Contracts

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many suppliers were contracted to supply fresh produce to the prison service in each year since 2004; and how many of those suppliers were located in the prison service area they were contracted to supply; [5357]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of purchasing fresh produce for the Prison Service in each year since 2004. [5358]

Mr Blunt: The number of suppliers contracted to supply fresh produce to prisons between 2004 and 2007 was 18. Suppliers determined the list of prisons they preferred to supply during the tender process which was evaluated against predetermined criteria. Subsequently, contracts were awarded to suppliers on a regional and/or national basis dependant on their location and capability to fulfil our requirements to ensure the most cost effective and best value for money option achieved. All prisons had a minimum of two local suppliers to choose from on a weekly basis to purchase their requirements. The full list of suppliers is shown as follows.

Supplier names

A David & Co. Ltd
Augro Fresh Ltd
Bristol Fruit Sales
F W Gedney
G W Price Ltd
Greenvale AP plc
Histon Produce Co. Ltd
Hopelake Food Group
John Palin Ltd
M J Morris & Son Ltd
Minor Weir & Willis Ltd
Peachey Catering Services Ltd
R S Cockerill Ltd
Redbridge Produce and Flowers Ltd
S T Holmes
Swithenbank Foods
Thomas Baty Ltd
Tom Mitchell Ltd

In 2007, a national framework contract was awarded to 3663 First for Foodservice, which includes the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables. 3663 fulfil this requirement of national supply through 13 regional depots. This contract is in place until May 2011.

The cost to the public purse for the provision of fresh produce in prisons in each year from 2004 is detailed as follows.

Financial year (April-March)	*Spend (£)*
2004-05	n/a
2005-06	8,342,033
2006-07	9,045,572
2007-08	9,057,806
2008-09	9,444,015
2009-10	8,552,184
2010-11[1]	2,198,534

n/a = Not available

[1] Spend from April-June 2010

Prior to the introduction of our electronic purchasing system in 2007, spend data from suppliers were held regionally and relied on suppliers submitting information on a regular basis. Consistent information was centrally collated from the start of the 2005 financial year and therefore spend information for the 2004 financial year in not available from our central office.

Prison Service: Retirement

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on raising the retirement age for prison officers. [5639]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not have any current plans to increase the retirement age for prison officers. A new retirement policy was implemented in March 2010 in response to Permanent Secretaries' decision to reduce the use of mandatory retirement ages in the civil service.

NOMS currently operates a normal retirement age of 65 for all prison officer grades. Staff subject to a normal retirement age are entitled to request an extension of service beyond this age, and to a right of appeal where a request is declined.

Prisons: Drugs

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to improve drug treatment facilities in prisons. [5645]

Mr Blunt: This Government recognise that drug treatment is essential if we are to tackle the social and health costs caused by drugs. However, more needs to be done to help drug misusers to recover from their addiction and get into steady housing and employment. We believe the balance of treatment currently has tipped too far towards maintaining drug users' addictions.

A comprehensive framework of drug treatment is in place in prisons to address the drug needs of all offenders. This comprises clinical services, psychosocial interventions, case management and through care services.

Through a phased introduction that began in 2006, the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) is bringing improvements to the quality of prison treatment. Department of Health funding has risen to around £45 million in 2010-11, with IDTS due to be rolled out to all English adult prisons by March 2011.

We will explore the best ways to help more offenders get off drugs for good and into a position where they can stop offending and make a proper contribution to society. We will consider all viable options in the context of a full review of sentencing and rehabilitation policy.

Probation

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on probation services commissioned by each probation trust in the latest year for which information is available; and what proportion of that funding was allocated to *(a)* the national probation service, *(b)* the voluntary sector and *(c)* the private sector. [5671]

Mr Blunt: The following table provides the expenditure for probation services commissioned by the 8 probation trusts that were in existence in 2009-10 financial year.

Trust	*Delivered internally*	*Voluntary sector*	*Private sector*	*Local authorities*	*Total*
West Mercia Trust	16,710,000	570,000	63,000	361,000	17,704,000
South Wales Probation Trust	24,239,000	1,332,000	146,000	0	25,717,000
Dyfed Powys Probation Trust	8,260,000	559,000	17,000	0	8,836,000
Humberside	14,100,000	700,000	0	200,000	15,000,000
Manchester	51,821,771	446,056	629,263	103,977	53,001,067
Merseyside	30,434,000	270,000	173,000	175,000	31,052,000
Lancashire	23,032,674	210,120	313,406	509,425	24,065,625
Leicestershire	14,377,500	320,200	358,100	268,200	15,324,000
Total	182,974,945	4,407,376	1,699,769	1,617,602	190,699,692

The figures for the response to proportion allocated to *(a)* the national probation service have been provided as allocated for services delivered internally. For the sake of clarity the table also shows where individual trusts commission services from local authorities.

Young Offenders

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor spent on preventive measures to tackle youth offending in the last five years. [6417]

Mr Blunt: The figures in the following table are taken from published Youth Justice Board annual reports show the incurred expenditure on specific prevention programmes for the last five years. This does not include significant investment on prevention from the Home Office and Department for Education, or local investment in prevention programmes:

	Incurred expenditure (£ million)
2004-05	8.24
2005-06	10.135
2006-07	23.728
2007-08	32.402
2008-09	36.479

The YJB annual accounts for 2009-10 will be published later this month.

Young Offenders: Special Educational Needs

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders with *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented special educational needs have been placed in young offender institutions in each of the last 10 years. [5446]

Mr Blunt: These data are not collected centrally. In the research for Evaluation of Asset, carried out by Oxford University for the Youth Justice Board in 2002, 25% of the sample of young offenders had special needs identified, and just over 60% of those had a statement of special educational needs (SEN).

HEALTH

Arthritis: Health Services

Mr Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include the care of rheumatoid arthritis as a priority in the next iteration of his Department's world class commissioning assurance framework. [5275]

Mr Burstow: There are no plans for a further iteration of the commissioning assurance framework.

The 'Coalition: our programme for government' document confirms this Government's intention to strengthen the power of GPs as patients' expert guides through the health system by enabling them to commission care on their behalf. We will bring forward more detailed proposals in due course.

Complementary Medicine: Expenditure

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the expenditure by each NHS primary care trust on commissioning *(a)* homeopathic and *(b)* chiropractic therapies in each of the last 10 years. [4389]

Anne Milton: Data on spending in these areas are not routinely collected by the Department. Decisions on the commissioning and funding of any treatment are the responsibility of local national health service organisations. Issues such as safety, clinical and cost effectiveness, and the availability of suitably qualified/regulated practitioners need to be taken into account when making such decisions.

Food: Fat and Salt

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage *(a)* food manufacturers, *(b)* caterers and *(c)* food producers to reduce the amount of saturated fat in food products; [5187]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure *(a)* food producers and *(b)* caterers continue to reduce the salt content of commonly consumed foods. [5189]

Mr Burstow: The Government recognise the extensive work already carried out to encourage the food industry to reduce levels of salt and saturated fat in food, and the significant achievements that have been made by all sectors of the food industry.

We are committed to improving public health, and we will continue to engage with the food industry on areas such as product reformulation.

The Food Standards Agency has a programme in place to reduce salt intakes in the United Kingdom from levels of around 9.5g (in 2000-01) to no more than 6g/day for adults, and lower levels for children. To achieve this objective, work has been undertaken with the UK food industry, including caterers, to reduce levels of salt in food; a public awareness campaign has been run to inform consumers of why a high salt intake is bad for health and what they can do to reduce their intakes; and signpost labelling is provided to consumers on food labels to help them make informed choices.

Health Hazards: Radon Gas

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice is available to householders on the dangers of radon gas; and if he will make a statement. [5481]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health Protection Agency's (HPA) Radiation Protection Division provides advice on risks from all types of radiation including radon gas. The HPA has recently created a new website:

www.ukradon.org

which also hosts the new radon map developed in collaboration with the British Geological Survey. HPA specifically targets high risk areas with roadshows and campaigns and provides free measurements to householders in these areas; and mitigates houses that are found to have extremely high readings.

Health Services

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of treatments available through the NHS his Department classifies as fully evidence-based. [6380]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold a central list of treatments available through the national health service.

Health Services: Standards

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that patient satisfaction outcomes are considered in the commissioning of NHS services. [6379]

Mr Simon Burns: This Government are committed to putting patients at the heart of the national health service, and focusing the NHS on delivering better outcomes for patients. This focus on outcomes will include improving the experience of patients. We will be bringing forward proposals on this area in due course.

Homeopathy: Expenditure

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the total NHS budget was spent on homeopathic services in the last 10 years. [6377]

Anne Milton: Data on spending on homeopathic services as a whole are not routinely collected by the Department.

James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses the James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has employed in each of the last five years. [6174]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows headcount for qualified nurses, midwifery and health visiting staff at James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as at 30 September each year.

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Qualified staff	795	760	780	839	867
Qualified Bank staff	116	14	51	82	84
Grand total	911	774	831	921	951

Notes:
1. This shows qualified nursing staff totalled and split by qualified nursing substantive staff and qualified bank nursing staff.
2. Banking nursing staff are employees of a trust or wider national health service (e.g. through NHS Professionals) who work on an ad-hoc basis. This could include staff working only as Bank staff, or substantive employees who also work some additional time through the bank system.

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cardiology operations at James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have been cancelled in the last 12 months. [6175]

Mr Simon Burns: We are advised that the James Paget Hospital University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust does not undertake any cardiology operations.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time in the accident and emergency department at James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was in each of the last five years. [6176]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected in the format requested.

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) accident and emergency (A&E) data are only available from 2007-08. The following table sets out the mean and median duration to departure times in minutes for James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

	Mean duration to departure (minutes)	*Median duration to departure (minutes)*	*Number of attendances recorded*
2007-08	112	97	61,236
2008-09	123	111	61,753

Notes:
1. The table shows average A&E duration to departure times in minutes for James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from 2007-08 to 2008-09.
2. Duration to Departure: The time (expressed as a whole number of minutes) between the patient's arrival and the time the A&E attendance has concluded and the department is no longer responsible for the care of the patient.
3. Number of attendances recorded: An attendance is a record for every patient that attends an A&E department, including a major A&E department, single specialty A&E departments, walk-in centres and minor injuries units. Any one patient can have multiple attendances, which may be in the same or different time periods, for the same or different condition.
4. A&E Data Quality:HES are compiled from data sent by a number of national health service providers across England. The NHS Information centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain. The A&E HES publications address some of the key data quality and coverage issues. These are available on HES online at:
www.hesonline.nhs.uk

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many avoidable deaths occurred at James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years; [6177]

(2) how many deaths resulting from complications during surgery there have been at James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years. [6178]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is a matter for James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to John Hemming, chair of James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, informing him of my hon. Friend's enquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been prosecuted for attacks on staff at James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the last 12 months. [6179]

Mr Simon Burns: The James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has reported no prosecutions for attacks on staff in the last 12 months.

Muscular Dystrophy: Social Services

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that muscular dystrophy care advisors are appointed in each region. [6245]

Mr Burstow: The national health service in England has agreed to create further care co-ordinator roles, as well as taking over the funding of those posts currently funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign. This will bring the complement of care- co-ordinator posts in England to 16.

NHS: Standards

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Care Quality Commission to publish the outcomes of its next set of annual health checks for health providers and commissioners. [5230]

Mr Simon Burns: In October, for benchmarking purposes the Care Quality Commission intends to publish 2009-10 performance by national health service organisations against each of the indicators set out in the NHS Operating Framework.

Patient Choice Schemes

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Choose and Book system in widening patient choice. [6378]

Mr Simon Burns: The February 2010 'National Patient Choice Survey', published on 30 June, shows that of those patients offered a choice of hospital, 73% booked their appointment through Choose and Book. The choice of date and time varied by method of booking, with 26% of those who booked when the hospital contacted them being offered a choice of date and time, compared with 41% of those booked through Choose and Book in the surgery, 56% of those calling an appointments line and 85% of those booking via Choose and Book on the internet.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to announce his decision on the allocation of funding to primary care trusts in financial years *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [5744]

Mr Simon Burns: The coalition agreement commits to increases in health spending in real terms in each year of the Parliament. Final departmental spending plans will be announced in the Spending Review in the autumn. Then the NHS operating framework for 2011-12 will set out the detail of both revenue and capital allocations in this revised funding context.

Strategic Health Authorities: Translation Services

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust spent on translation services in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [6673]

Mr Burstow: When planning such services, national health service bodies should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

NHS bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department.

Strokes: Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with voluntary sector providers the effect on stroke survivors and carers of ending ring-fenced funding for the National Stroke Strategy. [5888]

Mr Simon Burns: Arrangements are being made for me to meet representatives of the Stroke Association where a range of issues will be discussed.

Strokes: Health Services and Education

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding he plans to allocate to strategic health authorities for stroke service development in the next financial year; [5290]

(2) what funding he plans to allocate to raising public and professional awareness of stroke in the next financial year. [5291]

Mr Simon Burns: Funding allocations from 2011-12 to 2014-15 will be subject to the spending review, which will be announced in October.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects each contribution from the Exchequer to banks in which UK Financial Investments Ltd has a stake to be repaid; and if he will make a statement. [6140]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) was set up by the Government to manage its investments in financial institutions at arm's length and on a commercial basis. UKFI's strategy for managing and ultimately divesting the investments over time is available at:

www.ukfi.co.uk

Business: Insolvency

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of businesses were entered into insolvency by HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and in how many such cases HM Revenue and Customs was the sole creditor. [6491]

Mr Gauke: The number of bankruptcy and company winding up orders granted to HMRC in England and Wales from April 2009 to March 2010 was around 6,150 which equates to around 8% of those granted overall.

The other information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Child Benefit

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* mothers receive child benefit and *(b)* children trigger payments of child benefit in Makerfield constituency. [6195]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* mothers receive child benefit and *(b)* children trigger payments in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. [6078]

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers receive child benefit in Stretford and Urmston constituency; and how many children trigger child benefit payments in that constituency. [5843]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* mothers receive child benefit and *(b)* children trigger child benefit payments in (i) Glasgow North and (ii) Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [6183]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* mothers receive child benefit and *(b)* children trigger payments of child benefit in (i) Slough, (ii) Salisbury and (iii) Scarborough and Whitby constituency. [6008]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers receive child benefit in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency; and how many children trigger child benefit payments in that constituency. [5894]

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers in Kingston upon Hull North constituency are in receipt of child benefit; and how many children trigger such payments. [6522]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis, August 2009". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

Child Care Tax Credit

Ian Lavery: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* the UK are in receipt of the childcare element of tax credits. [6089]

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency are in receipt of child tax credits. [6530]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families with children benefiting from the childcare element of tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency and region, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5962]

Justine Greening: The following items of HM Treasury property were reported lost or stolen during the 12 months ending December 2009:

Property lost or stolen in 2009

	Description
Lost	3 Blackberry mobile devices, 4 laptop USB tokens
Stolen	2 BlackBerry mobile devices, 1 remote access unit, 1 laptop case, 1 PC mouse, 1 filing cabinet key

The total cost of replacement is estimated at £2,100.

Government Departments: Procurement

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to recoup any shortfall in his predicted savings from renegotiations of contracts with suppliers of goods and services to Government Departments. [4692]

Mr Maude: I have been asked to reply.

Work being carried out across Government to renegotiate contracts within individual Departments is being augmented by a centrally led programme of work to engage in commercial negotiations on a pan Government basis. This is one strand that the Efficiency and Reform Group is taking forward to enable savings centrally.

Other strands include centralising procurement, driving down the cost of the Government estate and reducing unnecessary spend on consultancy and advertising. The Government will be driving each strand aggressively to deliver the maximum benefit across the planned initiatives and ensure that as much money as possible can be directed towards our priorities.

Housing: Rents

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* 50th percentile rent for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five-bedroom properties in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rent for each type of property in (A) Bishop Auckland and (B) Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [5182]

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in West Lancashire constituency. [5629]

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five-bedroom properties in Stretford and Urmston constituency. [5855]

Mr Gauke: The 50th percentile rents for each category is the local housing allowance (LHA) median rate which is published each month. These rates are available at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/LHADirect/lha-rates-england.htm

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has published the indicative 30th percentile rates in each bedroom category for Broad Rental Market Areas (BRMA) in England on its website:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/LHADirect/LHA-emergency-budget-news-2010.htm

This information is based on data used to produce the June 2010 LHA rates. LHA rates are produced for BRMAs which do not equate to constituency areas.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made in Makerfield constituency in 2009-10; [6194]

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made in Stretford and Urmston constituency in 2009-10; [5851]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* the area covered by Ealing Central and Acton constituency in 2009-10; [5990]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made to people in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency in 2009-10. [6014]

Mr Gauke: Geographical analysis of the number of people benefiting from the Health in Pregnancy grant has not previously been undertaken and therefore this information is only available at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Numbers

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements are in place for the payment of charges for calls to the 0845 numbers used by HM Revenue and Customs. [5363]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not receive any revenue directly through the use of 0845 numbers.

HMRC's Contact Centre telephony is provided through a commercial arrangement called the Telephony Managed Service. This takes account of the in-payments HMRC's telephony service provider receives from licensed operators carrying 0845 calls. The arrangement ensures that the Telephony Managed Service is provided at the lowest cost while remaining flexible enough to adapt to business and customer needs.

HMRC is aware that the cost of calling its 0845 helplines can be an issue for some of its customers. HMRC is in the process of carrying out an in depth review of its telephone numbering strategy, looking at ways to reduce the costs to customers while balancing the costs to HMRC and the performance of its Contact Centre network.

VAT: Audio Recordings

Dr Huppert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much value added tax was paid on the sale of audio books in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [6244]

Mr Gauke: This information is not available. HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT raised from sales of this type of goods.

Welfare Tax Credits

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households receive tax credits in Makerfield constituency. [6196]

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households receive tax credits in Stretford and Urmston constituency. [5847]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Worsley and Eccles South constituency receive tax credits. [6079]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency receive tax credits. [6184]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency are in receipt of tax credits. [6007]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households receive tax credits in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [5895]

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Kingston upon Hull North constituency are in receipt of tax credits. [6523]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families with children benefiting from Child and Working Tax Credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

Welfare Tax Credits: Motherwell

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency in the income band *(a)* £10,000 to £20,000, *(b)* £21,000 to £30,000, *(c)* £31,000 to £40,000, *(d)* £41,000 to £50,000, *(e)* £51,000 to £60,000 and *(f)* £60,000 or more are in receipt of tax credits. [6533]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Motherwell and Wishaw constituency families in receipt of tax credits by income band

Household income	*Number*
£10,000 to £20,000	2,360
£20,000 to £30,000	1,250
£30,000 to £40,000	1,400
£40,000 to £50,000	800
£50,000+	410

The income bands over £50,000 have been combined because the numbers in the individual categories would be disclosive.

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about these data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

EDUCATION

Academies: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Coventry have submitted an application for academy status. [3851]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 June 2010]*: No schools in Coventry have yet applied.

Academies: GCSE

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of year 11 academy school pupils was entered for *(a)* history GCSE, *(b)* geography GCSE, *(c)* a modern foreign language GCSE, *(d)* physics GCSE, *(e)* chemistry GCSE, *(f)* biology GCSE, *(g)* science GCSE, *(h)* GCSE English (1) language and (2) literature, (i) mathematics GCSE, (j) OCR National level 2 in ICT and (k) diploma in digital applications in 2008-09. [2787]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Academies	*Number of pupils at the end of KS4 entering for at least one full GCSE*	*Percentage of pupils at the end of KS4 entering for at least one full GCSE*
(a)	History	4,137	20.9
(b)	Geography	3,354	17.0
(c)	Modern Foreign Language	5,160	26.1
(d)	Physics	1,657	8.4
(e)	Chemistry	1,686	8.5
(f)	Biology	1,858	9.4
(g)	Core Science	12,693	64.2
(h)1	English Literature	12,780	64.7
(h)2	English	19,159	96.3
(i)	Mathematics	19,510	98.1
(j)	OCR National Level 2 in ICT	2,315	11.7
(k)	Diploma in Digital Applications	272	1.4

Notes:
1. *(a)* to *(i)* include full academic GCSEs *or* double awards where applicable. All other equivalent qualifications are not included.
2. *(j)* Includes OCR National Awards and Certificates in ICT.
3. *(k)* Includes Edexcel Level 1 and Level 2 Diplomas in Digital Applications.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of key stage four examination entries in each academy school in 2008-09 was for a GCSE, excluding applied GCSEs. [2909]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is presented in the following table:

Proportion of volume[1] of entries by pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 that are GCSEs in 2008/09 by school

School Name	*Percentage*
St Pauls Academy	80.6
Mossbourne Community Academy	68.3
Burlington Danes Academy	79.9
City of London Academy - Islington	74.6
Lambeth Academy	85.3
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	78.9
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	50.5
St Matthew Academy	68.3
City of London Academy (Southwark)	79.4
Harris Academy at Peckham	59.8
Harris Academy Bermondsey	57.2
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	57.7
Walworth Academy	68.8
St Michael and All Angels C of E Academy	55.2
Bacon's College	96.7
Globe Academy	70.5
Ashcroft Technology Academy	64.8
Paddington Academy	53.3
Westminster Academy	53.2
Pimlico Academy	82.9
London Academy	66.9
The Business Academy Bexley	58.6
Harris Academy Falconwood	42.9
Capital City Academy	72.6
Harris Academy South Norwood	40.9
Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	85.0
Oasis Academy - Coulsdon	81.6
West London Academy	66.3
Greig City Academy	66.3
Stockley Academy	63.2
The Harefield Academy	55.6
Harris Academy Merton	51.5
St Marks Church of England Academy	73.2
Walthamstow Academy	70.3
Grace Academy Coventry	48.7
Shireland Collegiate Academy	52.0
George Salter Collegiate Academy	34.4
Q3 Academy	77.9
RSA Academy	45.0
Grace Academy Solihull	73.0
CTC Kingshurst Academy	47.9
Walsall Academy	61.4
Shelfield Community Academy	37.7
The Academy of St Francis of Assisi	54.8
North Liverpool Academy	32.2
The Belvedere Academy	99.8
Essa Academy	67.7
Manchester Academy	69.0
William Hulme's Grammar School	95.0
St Anne's Academy	50.0
Salford City Academy	68.0
Oasis Academy MediaCityUK	62.5
Stockport Academy	70.2
New Charter Academy	52.8
The Barnsley Academy	33.0
Trinity Academy	48.9
Sheffield Park Academy	45.6
Sheffield Springs Academy	41.4
Dixons City Academy	65.9
Bradford Academy	56.8
David Young Community Academy	48.7

Proportion of volume[1] of entries by pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 that are GCSEs in 2008/09 by school

School Name	*Percentage*
Excelsior Academy	46.3
Academy 360	66.2
The City Academy Bristol	56.2
Bristol Brunel Academy	58.1
Bristol Cathedral Choir School	94.2
Colston's Girls' School	99.5
Merchants' Academy	44.9
Oasis Academy Bristol	61.1
Oasis Academy Brightstowe	54.5
John Cabot Academy	74.2
Unity City Academy	41.6
The King's Academy	67.6
Macmillan Academy	70.7
Archbishop Sentamu Academy	36.2
Oasis Academy Immingham	41.5
Oasis Academy Wintringham	54.9
Havelock Academy	56.1
St Lawrence Academy	60.2
Barnfield West Academy Luton	34.9
Barnfield South Academy Luton	64.5
Landau Forte College	71.5
St Aidans Church of England Academy	59.7
Oasis Academy Lord's Hill	57.8
Oasis Academy Mayfield	75.7
Swindon Academy	81.7
John Madejski Academy	45.9
The Langley Academy	71.4
Thomas Deacon Academy	53.8
New Rickstones Academy	76.6
Greensward Academy	53.4
Maltings Academy	68.1
The Gateway Academy	46.2
Hereford Academy	34.2
Steiner Academy Hereford	100.0
The Marlowe Academy	37.4
Folkestone Academy	53.2
Marsh Academy	50.5
The Leigh Technology Academy	39.6
Spires Academy	37.1
New Line Learning Academy	44.6
Cornwallis Academy	53.2
Longfield Academy	80.5
Accrington Academy	53.7
Darwen Aldridge Community Academy	61.7
Samworth Church Academy	65.7
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	42.4
Madeley Academy	46.8
Abraham Darby	58.7
Richard Rose Morton Academy	56.2
Richard Rose Central Academy	75.5
West Lakes Academy	75.3
Priory Witham Academy	27.5
Priory City of Lincoln Academy	49.9
Priory Academy LSST	59.4
Trent Valley Academy	56.2
The Open Academy	70.4
Northampton Academy	68.4
Corby Business Academy	46.6
Brooke Weston Academy	61.2
North Oxfordshire Academy	36.5
Oxford Academy	70.9
Midhurst Rother College	75.3
England (all schools)	75.4

Note:

1. Volume is the number of GCSEs that are equivalent to a qualification or set of qualifications - for example a GCSE double award contributes two to the overall volume while a short course contributes a half.

Children in Care

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his proposals for a pupil premium will include funding for looked-after children. [3478]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The Government are committed to the introduction of a pupil premium for disadvantaged children, and we will bring forward our proposals in due course.

Children: Carers

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent research his Department has commissioned on the number of young carers. [2447]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not recently commissioned any new research on the number of young carers in England.

I attended the Young Carers Festival which took place between 25-27 June; an event attended by around 1,400 young carers. This gave me an opportunity to hear young carers views from around the country.

Education: Finance

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding per pupil his Department has allocated to Kirklees local education authority in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [3327]

Mr Gibb: Since 2006-07, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the main source of school funding.

Per pupil unit of funding figures for 2005-06 to 2009-10 for Kirklees local authority are provided in the following table. The figures in the table are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms:

Real terms funding per pupil, DSG plus grants, pupils aged three to 19, Kirklees local authority

	£
2005-06 (Baseline)	4,250
2006-07	4,380
2007-08	4,550
2008-09	4,650
2009-10	4,800

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 31 March 2010.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the future of the *(a)* Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant and *(b)* Traveller Education Funding Scheme. [3465]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to ensuring a fair funding system which allows all pupils to fulfil their potential and invests in measures that most improve the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. The total Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) allocated for 2010-11 is £204 million. Decisions on schools funding from 2011-12 onwards will be made at the spending review in the autumn.

There is no Traveller Education Funding scheme. Traveller Education Support Services are funded by local authorities. Future funding for those services will be based on each local authority's assessment of its local needs and priorities.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to publish a response to the recent consultation on the dedicated schools grant. [3466]

Mr Gibb: The consultation on the Dedicated Schools Grant was the result of the review of school funding started by the previous Government. It was launched in March and was still running at the time of the election. It ended on 7 June and we expect to publish a report on the responses shortly.

We are considering the responses to this exercise as a part of developing our own consultation on school funding which will be launched in the summer.

GCSE: Leicester

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils gained five GCSEs at grades A* to C in each school in Leicester West constituency in each of the last five years. [3563]

Mr Gibb: The information required is given in the following table:

	Percentage of pupils achieving five or more grades A-C at GCSE including equivalents in selected years*				
Secondary schools in Leicester West constituency	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Babington Community Technology College	52	44	49	33	56
Beaumont Leys School	38	46	42	52	59o
English Martyrs Catholic School	51	57	58	60	81
Fullhurst Community College	27	29	26	35	40o
New College Leicester	10	27	29	39	49o
Riverside Community College	31	30	33	32	47o
Ellesmere College[1]	0	0	0	0	0
West Gate School[2]	—	—	[3]NE	[4]<	[4]<

[1] Ellesmere College is a Specialist Sports College for students with general learning difficulties.

[2] West Gate School is a Specialist School for Cognition and Learning.

[3] "NE" indicates that the school did not enter any pupils for GCSE examinations.

[4] "<" indicates that GCSE results have been suppressed as fewer than 10 pupils sat exams.

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables

Home Education

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take in response to Ofsted's recommendations in its recent report on local authorities and home education. [3807]

Mr Gibb: We have noted Ofsted's findings and recommendations. We will consider whether changes need to be made to the existing arrangements, given the strong views expressed by both home educators and local authorities.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to increase support for low income families in the education system. [3423]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* The Government are already committed to the introduction of a pupil premium for disadvantaged children, and we will bring forward our proposals in due course.

Schools: Bury

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that schools in Bury will receive a real terms increase in per pupil funding in each year of the next comprehensive spending review period. [5949]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* Decisions about levels of school funding from 2011 are subject to the spending review announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many incidents of violence towards staff in schools or colleges *(a)* were and *(b)* were not reported to the police in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such cases resulted in prosecutions in that period. [3095]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect this information.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department provides to schools and colleges on reporting to police attacks on staff. [3096]

Mr Gibb: The Department has provided no guidance to schools on when to report such attacks to the police.

Schools: Finance

Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the process is for the funding of maintained preparatory schools in England; and what role local education authorities have in that process. [3092]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities are responsible for funding maintained schools in their area. They do this through a local formula which is developed in consultation with their Schools Forum. Local authority funding of schools is supported through central Government grants, in particular the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Schools: Standards

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities did not undertake school organisation plans for each year following the removal of the requirement to do so in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [3349]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold this information.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in the Kirklees local authority area were not offered a place at their *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third choice of secondary school in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [2503]

Mr Gibb: We do not collect the data in the format that is requested and have only collected secondary preference data since 2008.

However, the information we have available is shown in the following table.

Secondary schools applications and offers2008 to 2010—Kirklees local authority

	Parents whose first preference was not offered	*Parents whose top 3 preferences were not offered*
2008 (Percentage) and	19.8	5.8
Number of children	869	255
2009 (Percentage) and	18.1	5.2
Number of children	800	230
2010 (Percentage) and	17.3	3.8
Number of children	712	156

The full statistical reports for secondary school applications and offers, 2008 to 2010 are available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000791/index.shtml

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000833/index.shtml

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000914/index.shtml

Specialised Diplomas

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his plans are for the future of the vocational diploma; and if he will make a statement. [3433]

Mr Gibb: I will be considering Diplomas as part of our work to improve the quality of vocational education, as set out in the Coalition Agreement.

Teachers: Training

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals for a minimum-funded annual entitlement for teachers' professional development before assessing the merits of a teachers' licensing scheme. [1956]

Mr Gibb: There are provisions within the existing School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document which provide for teachers to be able to access professional development.

We are currently undertaking a review of all our policies and as soon as we are able to provide more information, we will, of course, make a formal announcement. However, we have no plans to introduce licensing for teachers.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Andrei Lugovoi

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government has issued an arrest warrant through Interpol for Andrei Lugovoi. [6484]

The Attorney-General: I have been asked to reply.

There is still an arrest warrant outstanding for Andrey Lugovoi in the United Kingdom where he remains wanted for an allegation of murder. An initial extradition request made to the Russian authorities was refused on the basis that their constitution does not permit the extradition of their own nationals. In accordance with normal practice, we can neither confirm nor deny whether an arrest warrant for Andrey Lugovoi has been transmitted through Interpol.

Animals: Experiments

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure compliance with the policy on replacement, reduction and refinement in relation to the use of animals in military research. [5505]

Lynne Featherstone: We do not grant licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 for the development or testing of offensive weapons, but will consider applications to use animals to evaluate potential counter-measures.

We have a legal and administrative framework that ensures that animal experimentation is only permitted when there is no alternative research technique and the expected benefits outweigh any possible adverse effects to the animals. All of the animal studies undertaken by the Ministry of Defence are regulated by the 1986 Act and subject to inspection by the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate.

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) has a long running programme to embed the principles of the 3R's into its research programme and, wherever possible, investigate the opportunities to develop and evaluate alternatives to the use of animals.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animals were used in the safety testing of shellfish in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [5534]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South (Mr Hancock) on 27 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 912W.

EU Directive 91/492/EEC, and Commission Decision 2002/225/EC, specify the shellfish types, toxin classes, and test methods used.

However, with respect to the animal numbers used, the information requested is not available, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007) and the National Statistician's guidance 'Confidentiality of Official Statistics'. Providing the information requested would breach statistical confidentiality relating to individual establishments and individual licensees.

Additionally, release of data relating to 2009 ahead of the annual statistical publication is not allowed under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

The annual publication "Statistics of Scientific procedures on Living Animals 2009" will be published on 28 July 2010, and will be available on the Department's website at:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/scientific1.html

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-Semitic incidents *(a)* were recorded in England and Wales in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009 and *(b)* have been recorded in 2010 to date; and if she will make a statement. [5684]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is not collected centrally in the recorded crime statistics.

The recorded crime statistics only hold data for racially or religiously aggravated offences as defined by law. Specific details relating to the victim or alleged offender are not collected.

Asylum: Domestic Violence

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to make a decision on whether the exemption of the exclusion of women asylum seekers who have experienced domestic violence from the no recourse to public funds rule will be extended beyond August 2010. [5356]

Damian Green: A Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced on 30 November 2009 and is due to run until the end of August 2010. It is being monitored on a monthly basis with a full evaluation taking place following completion of the pilot. This will assist in informing our next steps.

British Nationality: War Crimes

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Preseli, Pembrokeshire of 24 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 351-52W, on the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit, how many people refused asylum, leave to remain or citizenship on suspicion of war crimes have been removed from the UK in each year since 2004. [4824]

Damian Green: UKBA does not hold information on the number of people removed because of suspected involvement in war crimes. Removal for suspicion of involvement in war crimes is not recorded separately.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward legislation to make the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency a non-departmental public body. [5496]

James Brokenshire: We are aware of the previous Government's decision to turn CEOP into a non-departmental public body. We are currently considering what action may be appropriate.

Departmental Human Resources

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5108]

Nick Herbert: Spend for the Home Office Headquarters by its human resources directorate each financial year since 2004-05 is shown in the attached table. This includes pay, pensions and other services which we provide to the Home Office and its agencies.

The Department does not hold the requested information for the financial years 1997-98 to 2003-04 as general and subsidiary ledgers produced for the purpose of preparing certified financial statements are not retained after a period of six years, in line with NAO requirements.

HR costs for the Home Department

	£ thousand
2004-05	30,612
2005-06	30,270
2006-07	26,806
2007-08	23,468
2008-09	21,420
2009-10	20,192

Note:

Figures to 2007-08 include provision of services to National Offender Management Service and Office of Criminal Justice Reform which transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 2007-08.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* front line and *(b)* other staff were employed by (i) her Department and (ii) each of its agencies in the latest year for which figures are available; and what her most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of employing staff of each type at each of those bodies. [539]

Nick Herbert: There is no standard, commonly agreed definition of front line staff. For the purposes of this question we have taken it to mean staff working in operational business areas including ports, airports and passport offices. This is consistent with the definition applying in the context of the current recruitment freeze. This definition of front line excludes staff carrying out other vital public services, for example, supporting national security. The Home Office front line and non front line employee full-time equivalent for 2008/09 in table one is calculated on that basis.

The average staff pay cost per full-time equivalent in 2009/10 was £33,130 covering national pay, earnings related national insurance contribution, superannuation and London weighting (excluding specific grade allowances and overtime). It is not possible to provide separate costs for front line and other staff without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Home Office employee FTE, by front line and non front line categorisation, 2009/10

	Front line[3]	Other[4]
IPS	3,106	892
CRB[1]	308	328
UKBA	19,175	2,922
HQ[2]	390	2,660

[1] CRB excludes temporary staff.

[2] Excludes Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

[3] Front line equals those based in cost centres identified as activity public facing/effecting decisions directly supporting such actions, or serving a mixed function where roles cannot be separated.

[4] Other refers to central or local corporate support.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to nearest whole number.
2. Includes permanent and temporary staff unless stated.
3. Agency workers, consultants and contingent labour are excluded unless stated.

Source:

Local Home Office HR data: there are discrepancies with other published statistics where definitions differ.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 146W, on departmental mobile phones, which Ministers in her Department have been issued with a *(a)* BlackBerry and *(b)* mobile telephone; and what the (i) purchase cost of the handset, (ii) network provider, (iii) type of tariff and (iv) name of the supplier was in each such case. [4546]

Nick Herbert: The following table shows which Ministers in the Home Office have been issued with a *(a)* Blackberry and *(b)* mobile telephone; and what the (i) purchase cost of the handset, (ii) network provider, (iii) type of tariff and (iv) name of the supplier was in each case.

		Network provider	*Type of tariff*	*Name of the supplier*	*Purchase cost of the handset (£)*
Blackberry	Home Secretary	Vodafone	Teamwork and Blackberry	Vodafone	235
	Lynne Featherstone	Vodafone	Teamwork and Blackberry	Vodafone	235
	Baroness Neville-Jones	Vodafone	Teamwork and Blackberry	Vodafone	125
	James Brokenshire	Vodafone	Teamwork and Blackberry	Vodafone	235
	Nick Herbert	Vodafone	Teamwork and Blackberry	Vodafone	235
	Damian Green	Vodafone	Teamwork and Blackberry	Vodafone	235
Mobile phone	Home Secretary	Vodafone	Teamwork	Vodafone	Nil
	Lynne Featherstone	Vodafone	Teamwork	Vodafone	Nil

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which her Department is responsible. [5715]

Nick Herbert: I refer the hon. Member to the following table which details each of the Non-Departmental Public Bodies sponsored by the Home Office, and their respective Head Office Addresses.

In some instances it has not been appropriate to provide a Head Office address. In the case of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, this is for security reasons, as the Agency does not make its address public. In other instances, it is because the body in question is an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body which does not require such a venue. In these instances, the postal address is provided, and Secretariat functions will be performed by the Home Office.

Home Office Non-Departmental Public Bodies

	Address
Independent Police Complaints Commission	90 High Holborn London WC1V 6BH

Home Office Non-Departmental Public Bodies

	Address
Independent Safeguarding Authority	Aldermans Best Way Morton Palms Business Park Darlington DL1 4WP
National Police Improvement Agency	10 Victoria Street London SW1H 0NN
Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner	5th Floor Counting House 53 Tooley Street London SE1 2QN
Security Industry Authority	Po Box 49768 London WC1V 6YW
Serious and Organised Crime Agency	PO Box 8000 London SE11 5EN
Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs	Secretariat Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs 3rd Floor South-West Quarter, Seacole Building 2 Marsham Street SW1P 4DF
Animal procedures Committee	Secretariat Animal Procedures Committee 3rd Floor, South-West Quarter, Seacole Building 2 Marsham Street SW1P 4DF
Migration Advisory Committee	1st Floor Green Park House 29 Wellesley Road Croydon CR0 2AJ
National DNA Database Ethics Board	c/o Home Office Forensic Science Regulation Unit, 3rd Floor, South-West Quarter, Seacole Building 2 Marsham Street SW1P 4DF
Police Advisory Board for England and Wales	6th Floor Kingsgate House 66-74 Victoria Street London SW1E 6SW
Police Negotiating Board	6th Floor Kingsgate House 66-74 Victoria Street London SW1E 6SW
Technical Advisory Board	PO Box 38542 London SW1H 9YE
Investigating Powers Tribunal	PO Box 33220 London SW1H 9ZQ
Office of the Surveillance Commissioners	PO Box 29105 London SW1V 1ZU

Home Office Non-Departmental Public Bodies

	Address
Police Arbitration Tribunal	6th Floor Kingsgate House 66-74 Victoria Street London SW1E 6SW
Police Discipline Appeals Tribunal[1]	—

[1] These are administered by police forces directly.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* public relations, *(c)* consultants, *(d)* ministerial transport and *(e)* entertainment in (i) 1997 and (ii) the last 12 months for which figures are available. [4507]

Nick Herbert: The figures requested are as follows. They do not include expenditure incurred by the Department's agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

(a) In the last financial year, 2009-10, the Department spent £8,578,052 on advertising. The advertising figures quoted are for net costs for advertising space on TV, radio, press, cinema, outdoor and online channels, and do not include costs for making the adverts or associated fees.

(b) In the last financial year, 2009-10, the Department spent £382,054 on public relations.

(c) In the last financial year, 2009-10, the Department spent £73 million on consultancy.

The accounts for 2009-10 have not yet been closed and figures may be subject to amendment and to audit by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Consultancy services cover the provision to the Home Office of objective advice and assistance relating to strategy, structure, management, or operations in pursuit of its purposes and objectives. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available.

For the financial year 2010-11 the Home Office has introduced stringent new constraints on engaging consultants. We expect these constraints, in conjunction with new procedures and policies now being introduced, to produce a very substantial reduction in expenditure by the end of this financial year by comparison with the previous financial year.

(d) In the last 12 months (June 2009—May 2010), the Department spent £437,761 on ministerial transport.

(e) Figures for hospitality are not held centrally and attempting to collate them would incur disproportionate cost.

Figures for 1997 are not held centrally and attempting to collate them would incur disproportionate cost. General and subsidiary ledgers produced for the purpose of preparing certified financial statements are not retained after a period of seven years, in line with National Audit Office (NAO) requirements. The Department does not hold the requested information for 1997.

Deportation: Somalia

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the deportation of individuals from the UK to Somalia. [5426]

Damian Green: All cases are considered on their individual merits and refugee status or some other form of leave is granted if appropriate. Unless they have been granted some form of leave, unsuccessful asylum seekers no longer have a right to remain in the UK and we would expect them to return to their country of origin voluntarily.

We may enforce the return of those found not to be in need of international protection by the UK Border Agency and the independent courts. We only enforce the return of those we are satisfied are not in need of protection, and we do not seek to enforce returns unless we are satisfied that it is safe to do so. There is no policy to preclude enforced return to Somalia.

Statistical details on returns and the latest operational guidance relating to the treatment of asylum claims from Somalia can be found in the Library of the House and on the Home Office websites.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women with no recourse to public funds have taken shelter from domestic abuse in refugee accommodation since the Home Office pilot project started in December 2009. [4433]

James Brokenshire: A Home Office pilot project for women with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009.

In the period to 31 May 2010, 251 women were accepted onto the pilot, with 194 going on to receive accommodation and support under the scheme. This is monitored on a monthly basis, with a full evaluation taking place following completion of the pilot.

Entry Clearances

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fines were issued to people who arrived in the UK without proper documentation in each year from 1997 to 2009; and how much was levied in such fines in that period. [5600]

Damian Green: Between 1997 and 2009, carrier liability fines served on carriers totalled 53,163 individual charges, resulting in a total of £106,326,000 levied in charges.

Between 2002 and 2009 there were 12, 511 civil penalty notices served with the value of £8,101, 291 in penalties received.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the proposed cap on immigration will apply to visa applications made prior to 28 June 2010. [5829]

Damian Green: On 28 June we announced that interim limits would be implemented before an annual limit on economic migrants from outside the EU is introduced next April.

The Immigration Rules for interim limits were laid on 28 June which come into effect 21 days later on 19 July.

The interim limit will affect Tier one (General) migrants applying from outside the UK from 19 July. The Immigration Rules implementing the interim limit will not apply to Tier one (General) applications submitted before 19 July, even if the application is decided after that date.

The interim limit for Tier two (General) restricts the number of Certificates of Sponsorship UK based employers can issue from 19 July. Tier two (General) visa applications made prior to 19 July will not be included in the interim limit.

Entry Clearances: Married People

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the proposed cap on immigration will include those applying for spouse visas. [5828]

Damian Green: The proposed limit announced by the Home Secretary on 28 June applies to economic migration routes only—Tier one and Tier two of the Points-Based System. We are consulting on whether the dependant spouses of Tier one and Tier two migrants should be included in the limit. The limit will not include those applying for other spouse visas, although we intend to review all other immigration routes in due course.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* owners of educational establishments that provide courses for overseas students and *(c)* others on the points-based system used for determining the admission of overseas students to the UK. [5142]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has received recent representations on the points-based system used for determining the admission of overseas students to the UK from 18 hon. Members and one representative body. These raise concerns with the operation of the student visa system and implementation of changes following a recent review commissioned by the previous Prime Minister.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the review of the points-based immigration system applied to those seeking a visa for study in the UK to conclude; and if she will make a statement. [5144]

Damian Green: The Coalition's Programme for Government included a commitment to prevent abuse of the student route and my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has said that she will be reviewing non-economic immigration routes and will be bringing forward further proposals for parliamentary consideration. This will include detailed consideration of the student routes; the Government intend to bring forward proposals on these routes before the end of 2010.

Leicestershire Constabulary: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the likely change to the level of funding allocated by her Department to Leicestershire constabulary in the next 12 months. [4636]

Nick Herbert: As a result of the in-year reduction to core police funding in 2010-11, Leicestershire will see a total reduction of £1.8 million. Specific reductions to the core Home Office settlement are subject to parliamentary approval. However, even after this reduction has been made Leicestershire will still receive an increase of 1.4% in core Government funding over 2009-10.

Future funding will be determined by the Spending Review.

Passports: Lost Property

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with Interpol about sharing information on lost or stolen UK passports with private businesses; [5601]

(2) what estimate has been made of the number of passports lost or stolen in each year from 1997 to 2009; and what information her Department provided to businesses seeking to check whether a passport had been lost or stolen during that period. [5602]

Damian Green: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) provides lost and stolen passport data to Interpol via the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on a daily basis, to assist with the international policing of borders. This arrangement has been in place and meeting the requirements of the organisations concerned since 2004. There have been no discussions with Interpol regarding the sharing of information on lost and stolen passports with private businesses. However, since 2006 IPS has provided a Passport Validation Service (PVS) to a number of United Kingdom based accredited financial and legal services. The service allows these accredited financial and legal services to check the validity of UK passports presented to them by customers directly against IPS records. The accredited private sector organisations using the PVS service do so via a call centre, providing the PVS with details of the passport in their possession and PVS will confirm the validity of the passport or otherwise. If the passport presented is shown on IPS records as lost or stolen the organisation is informed that the passport is invalid. Personal details or the reason for not being able to validate the details are not provided by PVS.

With regard to number of passports that have been reported to IPS as lost or stolen between 1997 and 2009, it is not possible to provide figures between 1997 and

2003, as the current system to record details of lost, stolen and recovered passports was only introduced in December 2003. Information relating to lost, stolen and recovered UK passports is therefore only available for the last six years (from 2004).

The following table sets out the number of UK passports that have been recorded by IPS as lost, stolen or recovered since 2004. The category "Other" is used by the IPS predominantly when a passport is declared damaged or destroyed.

	Totals	*Number of lost passports*	*Number of stolen passports*	*Other*
2004	275,040	212,745	50,737	11,558
2005	286,988	230,011	45,709	11,268
2006	290,996	237,879	41,830	11,287
2007	303,572	251,751	41,393	10,428
2008	296,018	249,261	38,120	8,637
2009	272,963	232,852	32,276	7,835

Police Community Support Officer: Redundancy

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the redundancy costs of a police community support officer with *(a)* seven, *(b)* six, *(c)* five, *(d)* four, *(e)* three, *(f)* two and *(g)* up to one years of service whose services are no longer required. [6370]

Nick Herbert: No such estimates have been made. It is an issue for each force to determine police staff redundancy costs. The redundancy terms are set out under the Local Government Pension Scheme (and Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme for the Metropolitan Police) and the associated compensation schemes.

Police: Bureaucracy

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* length of time spent by police officers on administrative tasks in each year since 1997. [4383]

Nick Herbert: According to the Front Line Policing Measure commissioned by the last Government, police officers spent 21.7% of their time on paperwork in 2007-08, the last year for which figures were available. The new Government are clear that the police should focus on police work not paperwork, and the Home Office is now engaged in a programme of action to deliver this commitment.

Police: Conditions of Employment

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to review the remuneration and conditions of service for police officers; and if she will make a statement. [5750]

Nick Herbert: The Government have announced a full review of the remuneration and conditions of service of police officers and staff. We will provide information about the review, including timing, shortly.

Police: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria will be used to determine reductions to police force budgets in England and Wales. [4637]

Nick Herbert: The reduction in police funding of £135 million in 2010-11 will be made by reducing core Government funding by £125 million and counter terrorism specific grants by £10 million. The £125 million in-year 2010-11 reduction to core funding has been allocated fairly between forces, each of which will see a reduction equivalent to 1.46% of its core Government funding.

Future spending will be determined by the Spending Review.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what mechanism the planned reduction of £135 million funding for police forces will be allocated between police forces in England and Wales. [4638]

Nick Herbert: The reduction in police funding of £135 million in 2010-11 will be made by reducing core Government funding by £125 million and counter terrorism specific grants by £10 million.

The £125 million reduction to core funding has been allocated fairly between forces, each of which will see a reduction equivalent to 1.46% of its core Government funding.

I am confident that savings of less than 1% of expected spending in 2010-11 by police authorities can be made whilst keeping the frontline of policing strong and secure.

Police: Retirement

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on raising the retirement age for police officers. [5641]

Nick Herbert: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced an Independent Public Service Pensions Commission to include police pensions, and as part of the Coalition Programme there will also be a full review of the remuneration and conditions of service for police officers and staff.

Pre-charge Detention

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been held for 28 days in pre-charge detention since 2005. [4861]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office collates statistics on the number of people who have been held for 28 days in pre-charge detention since 2005. These details are included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008).

The details for 2010 are not yet available. The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second issue of the Bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

The third issue of the Bulletin was issued on 26 February 2010 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0410.pdf

The fourth issue of the Bulletin was issued on 10 June 2010 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1010.pdf

Rape: Convictions

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases involving rape the defendant was convicted following the introduction of DNA evidence by the prosecution in each of the last three years. [5035]

James Brokenshire: Data on the number of convictions obtained in which DNA match evidence from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) was a contributory factor are not collected centrally.

However, data are available on the number of detections in which a DNA match was available. The following table shows the number of rapes detected in which a match on the NDNAD was available for each of the last three years for which data are available, for police forces in England and Wales.

The figures do not include:

Additional detections where an offender admits further offences following a detection for which a DNA match was available; or

Crimes detected as a result of one-off speculative searches of the NDNAD or from comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory.

These procedures are used mainly in the investigation of serious crimes such as murder and rape. Therefore the figures provided in the table under-represent the overall contribution of DNA matches to the detection of rape crimes.

It is also important to note that detections and any subsequent convictions are obtained through integrated criminal investigation, based on a range of evidence types and not through DNA evidence alone.

The source of the figures provided is the forensic performance data, which are collected by the Home Office from police forces. The figures for 2009-10 are not yet available.

The data provided are management information and have not been formally assessed for compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Number of rapes detected in which a DNA match was available, England and Wales, 2006-09

	Number
2006-07	195
2007-08	184
2008-09	168

Surveillance: Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse has been of surveillance of Linda and John Catt, identifying separately the cost of *(a)* logging and *(b)* analysing the surveillance data; and if she will make a statement. [5353]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold this information

It is not possible to estimate costs in relation to specific individuals arising from logging and analysing data that is recorded by the police when attending public events.

Terrorism: Convictions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the conviction rate in criminal cases involving any charges on terrorist offences was in each year from 2006 to 2010. [5006]

Nick Herbert: The data requested for *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, and *(d)* 2009 is available in the statistical bulletin series bulletin Statistics on Terrorism

Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain the links to which are as follows:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0410.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1010.pdf

Data from 2010 is not yet available.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Females

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of aid allocated by his Department to groups in Afghanistan seeking to improve the quality of life, education, health and safety of women is paid into bank accounts in the name of Afghan males. [5077]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) requests and receives regular monitoring reports on all our programmes from our implementing partners. However the information requested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

I have recently initiated a review of the Department for International Development (DFID) aid programmes to ensure they are as effective as possible and bring real benefit to the world's poor. Our work in Afghanistan will be reviewed as part of this process.

The Government are committed to addressing gender issues in developing countries and will place women at the centre of our work on international development. We are also fully committed to ensuring full transparency of UK aid and have launched the Aid Transparency Guarantee, which will provide opportunities for those directly affected by our projects to provide feedback on the performance of projects. I have also announced a new independent aid watchdog to gather evidence about the effectiveness of DFID's programmes.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that aid committed by his Department to improve the quality of life, education, health and safety of women reaches the women's groups to which it has been allocated. [5078]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have recently initiated a review of the Department for International Development (DFID) aid programmes to ensure they are as effective as possible and bring real benefit to the world's poor.

The Government are committed to addressing gender issues in developing countries and will place women at the centre of our work on international development. We are also fully committed to ensuring full transparency of UK aid and have launched the Aid Transparency Guarantee, which will provide opportunities for those directly affected by our projects to provide feedback on the performance of projects. I have also announced a new independent aid watchdog to gather evidence about the effectiveness of DFID's programmes.

Developing Countries: Forests

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government plans to contribute to the international fund for maintaining levels of forestation; and whether expenditure will be in addition to already planned expenditure. [5069]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There are a number of international funds that seek to assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce deforestation. The UK is contributing £15 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Forum (FCPF), £100 million to the Forest Investment programme (FIP), and £50 million to the Congo Basin Forest Fund.

We are reviewing all our aid, including aid channelled through multilateral agencies to ensure it is as effective as possible and brings real benefit to the world's poor. We will consider further contributions to international brings real benefit to the world's poor. We will consider further contributions to international funds that seek to assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce deforestation as part of this review.

I have recently reaffirmed the UK's commitment to Fast Start finance, including £300 million for forestry between 2010 and 2012.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support the Centre for Progressive Health Financing *(a)* has provided to date and *(b)* plans to provide in the next six months to the six developing countries that pledged to remove health user fees at the Healthy Women, Healthy Children event held in the meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2009. [5046]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development has provided specific technical support on pro-poor health financing to two of the countries that made announcements in September 2009 (Liberia and Sierra Leone). In Nepal, Malawi, Ghana and Burundi, we have continued our support to the health sector, including support to removing financial barriers for the poorest.

I have recently initiated a review of DFID's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals. The way in which we will take forward our support for health financing will be determined as part of this review.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps he plans to take at the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly towards reducing maternal mortality in developing countries; [5044]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of maternal mortality in developing countries. [5045]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Maternal health is a major priority for the UK Government and an area which the Prime Minister has personally championed. We want to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to modern family planning methods and promoting women's choice in the developing world. The recent G8 summit has delivered a significant step change in efforts to improve maternal, newborn and child health. The Muskoka Initiative will prevent 1.3 million under five child deaths, 64,000 maternal deaths and enable an additional 12 million women to have access to modern family planning over the period 2010-15.

The UN millennium development goal (MDG) summit in September, with the aim of delivering the UN Secretary-General's joint action plan to improve the health of women and children, will be the next significant milestone. The UK Government remains determined to use such events to continue to drive progress and ensure that the UN delivers improved health outcomes for women and children.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on provision of aid to countries where torture is used. [6291]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: As stated in "The Coalition: our programme for government", the Government will never condone the use of torture. In taking decisions on the provision of aid the Department for International Development (DFID) takes into consideration the country governments commitment to human rights, as well as their commitment to poverty reduction, accountability and combating corruption, and the level of development and humanitarian needs in the country.

I have recently initiated a review of the DFID bilateral aid programme to ensure that we target UK aid where it is needed most and will most and will make the most significant impact on poverty reduction. The review will consider which countries should receive British aid, how much they should receive and which countries should stop receiving British aid.

International Assistance: Poverty and Hunger

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the effectiveness of aid delivery models used by the United Nations to make progress towards the millennium development goals to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. [5102]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development is currently undertaking a review of our funding to multilateral organisations. The review will include an assessment of the effectiveness of the United Nations agencies we support and their potential to make progress towards the millennium development goals.

Overseas Aid

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided to each country *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population of the recipient country in the latest year for which information is available; and what the percentage change in the amount of aid provided to each such country was between 1999 and that year. [5029]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Figures for UK Official Development Assistance to each recipient country and the relevant population in each year from 1999 to 2008 are published on the website of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development:

http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/50/17/5037721.htm

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Consultants

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget his Department has allocated for consultancy in 2010-11. [5929]

Chris Grayling: The requested information is not available as the Department for Work and Pensions is still considering the impacts of the emergency Budget on its spending plans. The Department expects to make savings of around £20 million on consultancy in 2010-11 to contribute to its overall £535 million efficiency challenge. The latest outturn data on consultancy spending were for 2008-[illegible], when the Department spent £95.2 million on IT and management consultancy.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated Ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5558]

Chris Grayling: No records of such journeys are kept. DWP Ministers use allocated ministerial cars, particularly when carrying restricted, confidential and private papers which relate to Government and parliamentary business. DWP Ministers also routinely walk to the House of Commons from the Department.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff his Department employs outside London at a wage of less than £7.14 per hour. [5244]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions has 576 staff who are employed outside London who earn less than £7.14 per hour.

£7.14 equates to a full time equivalent salary of £13,737 and is therefore below the threshold of the pay freeze.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to include disability living allowance payments to children in his proposed review of disability living allowance payments. [6418]

Maria Miller: The Chancellor announced in his Emergency Budget that the Government will reform disability living allowance to ensure support is targeted on those with the highest needs and will consider carefully how reforms will impact on children.

Employment and Support Allowance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the level of financial support needed to ensure that those living on employment and support allowance do not live in poverty. [5251]

Chris Grayling: Work is the best and most sustainable route out of poverty. The aim of the new work programme is to support individuals to maximise employment opportunities. For those unable to work, the benefit system currently targets extra resources on those who are in greatest disadvantage. The system will continue to provide additional support for those in need, but in future the Government will work to ensure the benefit system also helps to tackle the root causes of poverty, reducing welfare dependency and promoting social justice.

The main elements of the employment and support allowance (ESA) are the personal allowances, the work-related activity or support components and flat rate premiums for groups recognised as having other special needs e.g. carers, severely disabled people and people aged over 60. This structure enables the Government to focus help most effectively on those groups who have the greatest needs. In particular, people who are placed in the support group qualify for the enhanced disability premium automatically.

The benefit rates do not directly reflect, nor are they made up of, specific items of household and other expenditure. Instead the rates are intended to cover overall household expenditure and normal day to day living expenses taken as a whole. Benefit rates are reviewed annually and a number of factors are taken into account during the review, the most important of which is the level of inflation. We have decided that in future ESA will be increased using the Consumer Price Index which we believe is the most suitable measure of inflation.

In many cases the basic rate of ESA is just one element of the total package of support that a person or household receives. Additional support may be available through (e.g.) housing benefit, council tax benefit, child benefit, child tax credit and disability living allowance.

Floors: Safety

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* methodology used by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for measuring the slip potential of floors and *(b)* the HSE's microsurface roughness meter; what research has been (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on the effectiveness of the HSE's microsurface roughness meter; if he will publish such research; and if he will make a statement on the HSE's policy on the slip potential of floors. [5173]

Chris Grayling: The Department of Work and Pensions has made no assessment of the effectiveness of the methodology used by HSE for measuring the slip potential of floors and its micro surface roughness meter. HSE's approach to this topic has been developed by the UK Health and Safety Laboratory and is supported by the independent UK Slip Resistance Group consisting of manufacturers, suppliers and consultants. Independent peer reviewed research material also supports the approach taken by HSE and HSL.

HSE does not manufacture a micro surface roughness meter. It does use a commercially available micro surface roughness meter to assess the slipperiness of flooring in water contaminated conditions as part of its regulatory functions.

HSL have undertaken a variety of research into the causes of slips at work and how they can be managed and this research is published on the HSE website:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/research.htm

HSE has also published a technical guidance note on assessing the slip resistance of flooring which draws on the outputs from published HSL research:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web/slips01.pdf

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the Health and Safety Executive's *(a)* policy on slipping and *(b)* methodology for measuring the risk of different surfaces giving rise to slipping. [5175]

Chris Grayling: HSE has received correspondence from one commercial supplier of slip assessment equipment about its policy on slipping and its methodology for measuring the risk of different surfaces giving rise to slipping.

Future Jobs Fund

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs created *(a)* in Great Yarmouth constituency, *(b)* in the East of England and *(c)* nationally have been attributable to the Future Jobs Fund since its inception. [9935]

Chris Grayling: The information requested on the Great Yarmouth constituency area is not available.

In the East of England area the latest official statistics, covering the period from October 2009 to January 2010, show that 390 people were recorded as starting jobs funded by the Future Jobs Fund.

In Great Britain the latest official statistics, covering the period from October 2009 to January 2010, show that 8,660 people were recorded as starting jobs funded by the Future Jobs Fund.

At up to £6,500 per person the FJF is five times more expensive than some other elements of the Young Persons Guarantee. Moreover the Future Jobs Fund creates temporary, short term posts and the grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent jobs.

The Government are committed to supporting young people. The 50,000 new apprenticeships and the forthcoming Work Programme will help move young people into sustainable employment.

Homelessness

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people Jobcentre Plus recorded as homeless in the last five years; and how many such people Jobcentre Plus has helped to place in employment. [5128]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Housing Benefit

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his contribution of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 609, what estimate he has made of the number of elderly people in receipt of housing benefit who are in properties that are deemed to be too large for their needs. [5521]

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those in receipt of housing benefit occupy accommodation with more bedrooms than residents. [6502]

Steve Webb: The information is not available. The Department for Work and Pensions does not collect information on dwelling size for all housing benefit recipients.

However, the English Housing Survey in 2008-09 showed that 430,000 (11.2%) of all social rented households and 494,000 (16.1%) of all private rented households in England were under-occupied as measured by the bedroom standard.

The "bedroom standard" is essentially the difference between the number of bedrooms needed to avoid undesirable sharing (given the number and ages of household members and their relationships to each other) and the number of bedrooms actually available to the household.

Source: Figures on under-occupation are taken from Table 6: Overcrowding and Under-occupation by Tenure' from the English Housing Survey, 2008-09.

Housing Benefit: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those resident in Liverpool are in receipt of housing benefit. [6414]

Steve Webb: At March 2010 there were 62,030 housing benefit claimants in the Liverpool local authority area.

Notes:

1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.

2. Data is rounded to the nearest 10.

3. March 2010 represents the latest data held

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE).

Incapacity Benefit

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken on the number of people receiving incapacity benefit who are receiving it contrary to the benefit rules; what evidence was used to decide on the Government's target to reduce the number of incapacity benefit claimants by one-fifth; and if he will make a statement. [5354]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of people who are receiving incapacity benefit contrary to the benefit rules is unavailable. However, the Department does provide regular estimates of the amount of benefit overpaid and underpaid as a result of fraud, official error and customer error. The latest statistics cover the period October 2008 to September 2009 and estimated for that period a total of 3.3% (£210 million) of incapacity benefit was paid out incorrectly. A full breakdown of the results can be found in the Department's publication 'Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: October 2008 to September 2009', copies of which are available in the Library.

The Government have not set a target to reduce the number of incapacity benefit claimants by one-fifth. However, we believe the current system is broken and in need of radical reform. We will reassess everyone on incapacity benefits to see if they are fit for work. Those who are capable of work will be moved onto Jobseeker's Allowance. People who need more support while they prepare for work will get that help on Employment and Support Allowance and will be placed either in the Support Group or the Work Related Activity Group.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bishop Auckland

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [5180]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 100 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Bishop Auckland, and 110 in Blackpool North and Cleveleys.

The figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [5901]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 115 lone parents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Houghton and Sunderland South.

Note:

The figure has been rounded to the nearest 5.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. [6011]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 155 lone parents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Slough, 50 in Salisbury, and 65 in Scarborough and Whitby.

Note:

The figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Makerfield constituency. [6049]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 85 lone parents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Makerfield.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. [6091]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 140 lone parents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Worsley and Eccles South.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [6147]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 75 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Glasgow North, and 140 in Ealing Central and Acton.

The figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Kingston upon Hull North constituency. [6528]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 240 lone parents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Kingston upon Hull North.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in West Lancashire constituency. [5626]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 120 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in West Lancashire.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Mesothelioma: Deaths

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths from mesothelioma there have been in the West Midlands in the last five years. [5422]

Chris Grayling: The total number of mesothelioma deaths where the last residence of the deceased was recorded as being within the Government office region of the west midlands between 2003 and 2007 (the latest year for which data are available) was 713.

Source:

HSE, British Mesothelioma Register.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths there have been from mesothelioma in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester in the last 20 years. [5672]

Chris Grayling: The total number of mesothelioma deaths where the last residence of the deceased was recorded as being within *(a)* the local authority of Bolton and *(b)* the Metropolitan County of Greater Manchester between 1988 and 2007* is set out in table 1.

Table 1. Mesothelioma deaths 1988-2007[1]

Area	*Deaths*
Bolton	132
Greater Manchester (Metropolitan County)	1,093

[1] 2007 is the latest year for which data are available.

Source:

HSE, British Mesothelioma Register

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deaths from mesothelioma there were in *(a)* the area of Penistone and Stockbridge constituency and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber in the last 12 months. [6396]

Chris Grayling: The information is a follows:

(a) There are no data available at the constituency level.

(b) The total number of mesothelioma deaths where the last residence of the deceased was recorded as being within the Government Office Region of Yorkshire and the Humber in 2007 (the latest year for which data are available) was 172.

Source:

HSE, British Mesothelioma Register

New Deal Schemes: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations which deliver the Flexible New Deal programme in Birmingham have been informed since the Government came into office that their contracts are to be changed or terminated; and what changes will be made to each contract. [5637]

Chris Grayling: All organisations delivering flexible new deal, including those in Birmingham (Seetec and FourstaR), have been given notice that their contracts will end on 28 June 2011. Current contracts are under review, but as yet no changes have been made.

Pensions: Shipping

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that UK seafarers working in international waters receive full pension provision. [6366]

Steve Webb: UK seafarers who work on British vessels pay class 1 national insurance on their earnings. Class 1 national insurance is also payable when UK seafarers work on board certain foreign vessels. Therefore, UK seafarers working in international waters have the same pension provision as other employees in the UK if they are liable to pay class 1 national insurance contributions. Any UK seafarer who works on a foreign vessel in circumstances where class 1 national insurance is not due, is usually able to pay voluntary class 2 or 3 national insurance contributions to provide cover for basic state pension.

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward measures to include UK seafarers working in international waters within the scope of the Pensions Act 2008. [6367]

Steve Webb: The issue of whether to include seafarers in the employer duties in the Pensions Act 2008, which are currently under review, is a complex one. We are looking for the best way forward, and are talking with various interested parties including the trade unions, the shipping industry and other Government Departments.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many health in pregnancy grants were made in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency in 2009-10. [5897]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Geographical analysis of the number of people benefiting from the Health in Pregnancy grant has not previously been undertaken and therefore this information is only available at disproportionate cost.

Retirement

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable he has set for implementation of his proposal to phase out the default retirement age. [6065]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

We are committed to phasing out the default retirement age. We will bring forward proposals shortly for consultation on how we will quickly phase out the default retirement age from April 2011.

Through the consultation, we want to ensure that we make changes in a way that supports individuals and employers in adapting to the new situation.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to bring forward proposals for financial support for those who are unable to work due to illness or disability. [5247]

Chris Grayling: The written statement laid by the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling) on 29 June 2010 outlined the Government's approach to those who are unable to work due to disability and illness:

> 'The Government are committed to providing unconditional support for very sick and disabled people within that group.
>
> But there are people claiming incapacity benefits that can work, and want to work, with our help they will be able to.
>
> In the autumn, starting in Burnley and Aberdeen, we will ask incapacity benefit claimants to attend a work capability assessment. The rest of the country will follow, with reviews taking place when the normal benefit review is due.'

Those who are capable of work will be moved onto Jobseeker's Allowance. People who need more support while they prepare for work will get that help on Employment and Support Allowance.

The Government have also announced that they will reform Disability Living Allowance from 2013-14 to ensure support is targeted on those with the highest needs.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wigan constituency are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance. [5249]

Chris Grayling: The information is set out in the following table:

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and employment support allowance claimants in Wigan parliamentary constituency, November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*
Wigan	5,640	890

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
4. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency receive (i) disability living allowance, (ii) incapacity benefit and (iii) employment and support allowance. [5277]

Chris Grayling: The information is set out in the following table:

Disability living allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and employment support allowance claimants in Bishop Auckland and Blackpool North and Cleveleys parliamentary constituencies, November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*DLA*	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*
Bishop Auckland	6,940	4,920	960
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	7,120	4,700	870

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance; and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e 'credit only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in West Lancashire constituency. [5649]

Chris Grayling: The information is set out as follows:

Disability living allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and employment support allowance claimants in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*DLA*	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*
West Lancashire	6,290	3,750	690

Notes:
1. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Stretford and Urmston constituency. [5827]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance, November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Stretford and Urmston	820	4,490	6,210

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [5903]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table.

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

	Houghton and Sunderland South parliamentary constituency
ESA	1,030
IB/SDA	5,520
DLA	7,420

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Worsley and Eccles South constituency receive a *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [5947]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table.

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

	Worsley and Eccles South parliamentary constituency
ESA	940
IB/SPA	5,250
DLA	7,740

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment support allowance in (i) Glasgow North and (ii) Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [5998]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table.

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Glasgow North	690	3,950	4,780
Ealing Central and Acton	620	3,450	3,530

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency were in receipt of (i) disability living allowance, (ii) incapacity benefit and (iii) employment and support allowance on the most recent date for which figures are available. [6015]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe dsablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Slough	880	3,770	4,310
Salisbury	400	2,220	3,090
Scarborough and Whitby	710	3,960	5,950

Notes:
1. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Makerfield constituency. [6055]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance, November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Makerfield	860	4,940	6,800

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source: DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* invalidity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [6489]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009.

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Hampstead and Kilburn	700	4,510	4,510

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Kingston upon Hull North constituency. [6526]

Chris Grayling: The information is presented as follows:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Kingston upon Hull North	840	4,130	5,890

Notes:

1. Incapacity Benefit was replaced by Employment Support Allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Vacancies: Sex Establishments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish his formal response to the consultation on the acceptance and advertising of vacancies in the adult entertainment industry by Jobcentre Plus. [5562]

Chris Grayling: We will publish the coalition Government response to the consultation shortly.

Work Capability Assessment: Mental Illness

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the application of the employment support allowance's requirement for a work capability assessment to people who have a mental illness; what plans his Department has to support those with mental illness who are not able to work; and if he will make a statement. [5248]

Chris Grayling: The Work Capability Assessment was developed in consultation with medical and other experts alongside specialist disability groups such as Mind. The scoring system is much fairer and simpler, removing a potential bias in the Personal Capability Assessment against people with mental health conditions, as opposed to limitation of physical function.

The Department undertook an internal review of the Work Capability Assessment which was published on 29 March 2010. The review found that generally the assessment accurately identifies individuals for benefit. The review made a number of recommendations for improving the Work Capability Assessment. We announced on 29 June that we will be implementing those recommendations. Additionally, the Government also have a statutory commitment to arrange an independent review of the main elements of the Work Capability Assessment every year for the first five years of operation. This review will look at the Work Capability Assessment in operation and is distinct from the department-led review which focussed on the technical accuracy of the assessment and whether it could better account for how individuals adapt to their condition. The review, announced on the 29 June, will be conducted by Professor Malcolm Harrington, acting as lead reviewer.

Support for people who have a mental illness is currently available through Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers as well as a variety of Government funded programmes, these will be superseded by the Work Programme by summer 2011 .We will continue to support and protect the most vulnerable and disabled people who are assessed as not capable of work. People in the Support Group of Employment and Support Allowance are not required to under take work focused activity and also receive a higher rate of benefit.

Work Capability Assessment: Wigan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessments have been carried out in Wigan constituency in each year since they were introduced. [5250]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The available information is as follows.

Since the employment and support allowance's was introduced on 27 October 2008, the number of assessments performed at Wigan Medical Examination Centre is as follows.

	Completed exams
2008	4
2009	2277
2010	1561

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Manipur Province

17. **David Mowat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of India on lifting restrictions on access to Manipur province; and if he will make a statement. [5792]

Alistair Burt: We have not made representations to the Indian Government on this issue. Access to Manipur and other Indian states is a matter for the Government of India.

Nuclear Programme: Iran

18. **Stephen Metcalfe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the EU's policy on Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [5793]

Mr Hague: I am in regular close contact with key EU partners to ensure that the EU makes clear, through a strong set of autonomous sanctions, that Iran cannot ignore its international obligations. Tough EU sanctions will make clear that the EU is determined to resolve this issue through diplomatic means.

19. **Mr Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the EU's policy on Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [5794]

Mr Hague: I am in regular close contact with key EU partners to ensure that the EU makes clear, through a strong set of autonomous sanctions, that Iran cannot ignore its international obligations. Tough EU sanctions will make clear that the EU is determined to resolve this issue through diplomatic means.

National Budgets: EU

20. **Matthew Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for agreement to proposed changes to EU mechanisms for surveillance of national budgets. [5795]

Mr Lidington: Bringing together consideration of fiscal and structural policy is good for the EU, and the UK supports this. However, the Government have made it clear that the UK will not submit its budget to the EU before it has been approved by this House.

Middle East

21. **Mike Freer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in the middle east peace process; and if he will make a statement. [5796]

Alistair Burt: Recent events, including in Gaza, have highlighted the urgent need for progress towards a two state solution. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Senator Mitchell last week about progress on proximity talks. We will continue to buttress the diplomatic initiative of President Obama's Administration and urge both sides to work for progress.

EU Budget

22. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had at EU level on the process for limiting the size of the next EU budget; and if he will make a statement. [5797]

Mr Lidington: We will strongly defend the UK's national interests in the forthcoming EU budget negotiations. The EU budget should only focus on those areas where it adds value, and should deliver more for less. Reform of the EU budget was last discussed formally at the December European Council. Heads of Government agreed conclusions calling on the Commission to produce a report in order for the Council to provide orientations on priorities during 2010.

United Nations Reform

23. **Mr Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on reform of the United Nations. [5798]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had recent discussions with his international counterparts on reform of the United Nations. We expressed our position in the latest exchange of views between all member states on UN Security Council reform at official level last Monday, 28 June. For example, the UK continues to work for reform of the Security Council including by supporting the candidacies of Japan, India, Germany and Brazil for new permanent seats, as well as African representation.

British Citizens: Greece

24. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements his Department has in place to manage relationships with the Greek authorities concerning the unlawful killing of British citizens on Greek soil. [5799]

Mr Lidington: I am aware of the hon. Member's deep concerns about families who have lost loved ones in such tragic circumstances. I assure her that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Greek Ministry of Justice are currently working together to find ways to strengthen the overall response to the deaths of British nationals in Greece in suspicious circumstances.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6111]

Alistair Burt: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 164W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is of (i) each BlackBerry device and (ii) the in-car telephone issued to Ministers in his Department. [4012]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ministerial mobile and in-car telephony services are provided via the Office of Government Commerce Mobile Solutions (II) Framework Agreement with Vodafone. This covers five ministerial BlackBerry devices on BlackBerry Team/ Flexwork tariffs, and one in-car device on a Teamwork tariff. Device purchase costs were from £50 to £325 each. Tariffs range from £3.75 to £16.50 per month. BlackBerries and phones were recovered from former Ministers and reissued within the FCO as appropriate.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5717]

Alistair Burt: The head office addresses for each non-departmental public body (NDPB) of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are as follows. Further details can be found at the following website address:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/what-we-do/working-in-partnership/working-with-stakeholder-groups/100-dept-public-bodies

Executive NDPBs

The British Council
10 Spring Gardens
London
SW1A 2BN

Westminster Foundation for Democracy
Artillery House
11/19 Artillery Row
London
SW1P 1RT

The Great Britain and China Centre
15 Belgrave Square
London
SW1X 8PS

The Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission
John Foster House
36, Gordon Square
London
WC1H 0PF

Advisory NDPBs

The Government Hospitality Committee for the Purchase of Wine
Lancaster House
St James
London
SW1A 2PA

The Diplomatic Service Appeals Board
Employee Relations
Human Resources Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2PA

Tribunal NDPB

The Foreign Compensation Commission
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2PA

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6455]

Alistair Burt: All Ministers have used the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in-house photographer, part of the Audio Visual team, and photographs have been produced digitally. Therefore no costs were incurred.

Euro

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plan to support any amendments to EU treaties which may be proposed to enable the rules governing the euro to be amended in the light of the Greek sovereign debt situation. [5821]

Mr Lidington: Any EU treaty, even one that applies just to the euro area, will need the unanimous agreement of all 27 EU member states, including the UK, which has a veto. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on Monday 21 June:

> "We will back measures that help sort out the Eurozone. We will not back measures that will pass power from the UK to Brussels."

Gibraltar: Equality

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response his Department plans to make to the European Court of Justice judgment C-186/09 on the non-implementation of equality legislation in Gibraltar. [6294]

Mr Lidington: Case C-186/09 relates to the implementation of Directive 2004/113/EC. This directive has now been implemented in Gibraltar. Transposition was notified to the Commission by means of a letter from the Government, dated 31 May 2010.

Gulf of Mexico: Oil

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the effects on relations between the UK and the US of the situation in the Gulf of Mexico. [5198]

Alistair Burt: The UK continues to have a very strong relationship with the United States of America. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met with President Obama at the G20 summit in Toronto on 26 June, where the President referred to a partnership 'built on a rock solid foundation'. They spoke about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in their meeting. They acknowledged that BP understood the scale of the catastrophe, was committed to clearing up the spill and was ready to respond to legitimate compensation claims against it. They also agreed that it was important for both the UK and US that the company remains viable, stable and strong going forward.

India and Pakistan: Nuclear Weapons

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage India and Pakistan to participate more fully in international negotiations on nuclear security. [5404]

Alistair Burt: Nuclear security is a policy priority for the Government. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister attended the recent G8 summit in Canada, which concluded with a clear declaration of the importance of nuclear security and a commitment from G8 leaders to continue work together for our shared peace and security, including fulfilment of commitments made at the Washington Nuclear Security summit in April, which both Pakistan and India participated. We will continue to encourage the active participation of both countries in the run up to the next Nuclear Security summit in Seoul, 2012.

Government Ministers and officials will continue to discuss nuclear security with the Governments of India and Pakistan, within the context of a broad strategy of engagement that focuses not just on security, but on developing our cultural, educational, scientific contact and commercial links.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the treatment of Christian communities in Iraq. [6237]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth officials in Iraq and London regularly meet representatives of the Iraqi Christian community to hear their concerns. On 9 June 2010, I met with Canon Andrew White, vicar of St George's church in Baghdad, to discuss the situation of Christians in Iraq.

We regularly urge the Iraqi government to protect all Iraqi communities, including Christians, and to deal appropriately with those who are found responsible for any acts of violence and intimidation because of political, ethnic or religious affiliation.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will take steps to encourage the Government of Israel to declare the number, type and location of its nuclear weapons. [5470]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of the widespread assumption that Israel possesses nuclear weapons. We have always encouraged all states to be as transparent as possible about their civilian—and, where applicable, military—nuclear programmes and capabilities. We continue to call on Israel to sign up to the non-proliferation treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to seek to secure access for the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Gilad Shalit. [4919]

Alistair Burt: The UK has long called for Gilad Shalit's immediate and unconditional release. His continued captivity without any access to the International Committee of the Red Cross and with only very occasional, minimal contact with his family is utterly unacceptable.

We continue to call on Hamas to renounce violence and take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to free Gilad Shalit without delay. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made this clear in a public statement on 25 June on the fourth anniversary of Mr Shalit's detention.

Nuclear Test Ban: Treaties

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take to seek to persuade Annex 2 countries to *(a)* sign and *(b)* ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty; and how many staff his Department has assigned to undertake work in connection with that Treaty. [4903]

Alistair Burt: The Government will continue to take all appropriate opportunities to promote signature and ratification of the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty (CTBT), with particular focus on the remaining nine annex 2 countries. We will also continue to support the CTBT Organisation's own efforts to promote entry into force, including through CTBT article XVI (entry into force) events.

The Government will continue to support the United States of America (US) Administration's commitment to ratify the treaty, recognising that US ratification is likely to provide an impetus for other annex 2 countries to follow suit.

My nuclear team works on CTBT, together with colleagues from the Ministry Of Defence.

Pakistan: Counter-terrorism

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which projects funded by his Department as part of counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation programmes in Pakistan will not continue to be funded in financial year 2011-12. [5597]

Alistair Burt: The Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation programme's allocation for 2011-12 will be assessed as part of the Government-wide Spending Review to be announced in October. The allocation of resources to particular countries and projects will be based on an assessment of the threat to the UK and UK interests.

Pakistan: Foreign Relations

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of UK relations with Pakistan. [6162]

Alistair Burt: Pakistan is a key partner for the UK with whom we enjoy a strong and productive bilateral relationship. The primary vehicle for the bilateral relationship is the UK-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Pakistan from 23-25 June 2010, and during the visit emphasised the Government's desire to deepen the strategic dialogue, with close co-operation in areas such as education, economic co-operation , counter-terrorism and commerce.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* video cameras and *(c)* digital cameras confiscated by the Israeli authorities from British members of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla that have yet to be returned. [6315]

Alistair Burt: We have made no such estimate, though we have been provided with some information by some of the British nationals on the flotilla.

We have been informed by the Israeli authorities that the return of electronic and media equipment is under consideration by the Israeli Defence Forces. We will continue to press for its return and availability for use in the Inquiry, as required by those conducting it.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assurances he has *(a)* sought from and *(b)* obtained from the Israeli government on it returning (i) contemporary notes, (ii) photographic evidence, (iii) video footage and (iv) other possessions confiscated from members of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla and accompanying journalists in their original condition. [6316]

Alistair Burt: We have raised these specific issues with Israel's ambassador to the UK. Our ambassador to Israel and other members of our Embassy in Tel Aviv have also raised the matter on a number of occasions with the Israeli authorities. It has also been raised by the EU presidency, on behalf of EU Heads of Mission, with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Although we are not legally obliged to pursue either legal action, or to seek the return of a British national's property, nor is it part of our consular assistance policy to do so, exceptionally in this case, we have asked our consular staff in Istanbul to follow up with the flotilla organisers, Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (Insani Yardim Vakfi) (IHH) who still hold over 300 pieces of unclaimed luggage, including watches, phones and cameras. Our consular staff have taken photos of everything that was seen in IHH's storage, which we will shortly be distributing to the British nationals involved so they can attempt to identify any property that is theirs.

We have been informed by the Israeli authorities that the return of electronic and media equipment is under consideration by the Israeli Defence Forces. We will continue to press for its return and availability for use in the Inquiry, as required by those conducting it.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the significance of photographic and video evidence confiscated from members of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla and accompanying journalists being made available to the Commission of Inquiry established by the government of Israel to enable that inquiry to meet international standards. [6317]

Alistair Burt: We believe the Inquiry should have access to all material which may assist it. We have not made an assessment on the significance of photographic and video evidence, which was reportedly confiscated from members of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla, being made available to the Commission of Inquiry.

We have been informed by the Israeli authorities that the return of electronic and media equipment is under consideration by the Israeli Defence Forces. I discussed this issue with the British Nationals during my meeting with them on 17 June and our officials have raised this with their Israeli counterparts. We will continue to press for its return and availability for use in the Inquiry, as required by those conducting it.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined the need for the Commission to provide a full, credible, impartial and independent investigation that the international community can respect.

Russia: Trials

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Department is taking to seek to ensure respect for the rule of law and the right to a fair trial in the Russian Federation; and if he will make a statement. [5832]

Mr Lidington: We welcome President Medvedev's focus on the need to strengthen the rule of law in Russia, including his focus on tackling corruption and promoting the independence of the judiciary. Promoting the rule of law, including the independence of the judiciary, is a key element of the UK's and EU's engagement with Russia.

The rule of law underpins many of the steps the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and other Government Departments will take on Russia. The Attorney-General and Lord Chancellor discussed rule of law issues with the Russian Justice Minister during his recent visit to the UK. The annual UK/Russia bilateral human rights talks have enabled us to raise our concerns from a human rights perspective and we will do so again at the next talks planned for early 2011. We will continue to remind Russia that good governance and a rules based system are vital in building investor confidence and attracting foreign investment. A transparent and independent Russian legal system is in all our interests.

The FCO funds projects supporting the rule of law in Russia. In the last financial year, we supported 10 projects at a total cost of £602,000. In the financial year 2010-2011, we are funding nine projects costing £624,295. These projects include:

supporting the safety of human rights defenders on duty by introducing new models of field work such as joint mobile groups;

increasing awareness of international human rights standards across the criminal justice system, with the aim of preventing false charges from being made by law enforcement agencies; and

improving adherence to the principles in the European convention on human rights in domestic legislation and practice.

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department is continuing to monitor the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky; and if he will make a statement. [5833]

Mr Lidington: Our embassy in Moscow is watching developments in Mr Khodorkovsky's case closely, and is participating in trial monitoring with EU partners and the US. The Government underline the importance that the trial should be fair and impartial.

USA: Passports

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the US administration has notified him of the discovery of a forged British passport in the course of a recent investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into espionage. [5831]

Alistair Burt: This is primarily a matter for the US authorities, but we are looking into any British links. We are investigating this with the US and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Leader of the House which Ministers in his office have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Cabinet Office and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5553]

Sir George Young: Neither my hon. Friend nor I have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the office and the House of Commons.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business Link

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his latest assessment is of the merits of Business Link; and whether he plans to end the scheme. [6461]

Mr Prisk: Business support funded by the public sector is designed to address gaps in private provision, which lead to many businesses making sub-optimal use of external advice and guidance. The 2007 economic impact evaluation of Business Link regional services found that within a year of assisting businesses the additional growth generated amounted to £2.26 of additional value for every £1 spent on the service. The web and advisor service have also been identified as creating significant benefits to businesses through hours saved and reduced cost of regulation compliance.

The Coalition Government are committed to replacing regional development agencies with local enterprise partnerships. We are working with the regional development agencies (RDAs) to enable this transition. We are reviewing all the functions of the RDAs and we believe some of these are best led nationally, including responsibility for business support. The forthcoming White Paper on sub-national economic growth will set out our approach in more detail.

Business: Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what account his Department takes of whether companies have anti-corruption procedures in place when deciding whether to provide them with financial support. [5613]

Mr Davey: While anti-corruption procedures are not a prerequisite for the provision of funding, the Department takes steps in relation to each financial support scheme to ensure that the funding provided is employed for the purposes for which it was intended. For example, under the Grant for Business Investment scheme, funding is only provided where a company can demonstrate that project costs have been properly defrayed. This includes confirmation by an independent accountant.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), states in its Mission and Principles that it aims to take account of factors beyond the purely financial, and of relevant government policies, including in respect of bribery and corruption when it is asked to support export transactions. Furthermore, it is ECGD's policy to comply with all international agreements which apply to the operations of export credit agencies, the relevant agreement on bribery and corruption being the OECD Council Recommendation on Bribery and Officially Supported Export Credits.

The Department also encourages UK companies investing overseas to apply the anti-corruption chapter of the voluntary OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises and to consider the good practice anti-bribery guidance on internal controls, ethics, and compliance adopted by the OECD in February this year.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* information and *(b)* guidance on the exclusion of companies found guilty of corruption from public tenders following the implementation of the EU Public Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC his Department has given to officials providing overseas trade and investment support for UK companies. [5614]

Mr Davey: The Government provide annual instructions, pre-posting briefings and an on-line toolkit to support officials, in overseas posts, report allegations of UK bribery and advise UK companies on how to manage the risks of overseas corruption. The Office of Government Commerce has also published guidance on their website concerning mandatory exclusion from tenders of economic operators convicted of certain offences, including participation in criminal organisations, corruption, money-laundering and fraud.

Business: Government Assistance

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses *(a)* in Great Yarmouth constituency, *(b)* in the East of England region and *(c)* nationally have received equity investment from the Capital for Enterprise Fund since that scheme's inception. [6172]

Mr Prisk: The Capital for Enterprise Fund has made investments in 38 businesses with a total value of £50.8 million. No investments have been made in the east of England including Great Yarmouth.

Business: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to increase the level of access to credit for small businesses in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the West Midlands. [6159]

Mr Prisk: The Government have announced a number of measures which will help small businesses access credit throughout the UK including in Coventry and the rest of the West Midlands:

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) will be increased by £200 million to support £700 million of additional lending until 31 March 2011. In addition, a processing target of 20 business days will be introduced for all major lenders participating in the EFG.

The creation of the Growth Capital Fund to address a gap in the market for growth capital for small to medium-sized businesses.

A new Enterprise Capital Fund to provide early stage risk capital to innovative small businesses with high growth potential.

A Green Paper to be published before the summer recess to consider the broad range of finance options for businesses of different sizes.

The Banking industry has published a new set of principles that high street banks will follow when lending to SMEs.

The Government will also be working with the banking industry on the disclosure of regional lending data.

Use funds from dormant bank accounts to establish a 'Big Society Bank', which will provide new finance for neighbourhood groups, charities, social enterprises and other non-governmental bodies.

Government will create a 'green investment bank'. Details will follow in the autumn.

Foster 'diversity in financial services, promote mutuals' and create a more competitive banking industry.

In addition to these new measures Advantage West Midlands supported venture capital funds still have money to invest in growth businesses from across the region. AWM continue to make offers of support under the Grant for Business Investment.

Departmental Art Works

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on works of art since 2007. [6131]

Mr Davey: This Department and its predecessors has not spent anything on works of art since 2007. All works of art are loaned from the Government Art Collection.

Departmental Catering

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on staff restaurants in each of the last 10 years; where each such restaurant is located; what budgetary support his Department provides for each; on what date each was last refurbished; at what cost; and if he will make a statement. [5527]

Mr Davey: Since 2001, this Department and its predecessors spent the following on its staff restaurants:

	£
2000-01	153,245
2004-05	219,102
2005-06	231,736
2007-08	15,555
2009-10	5,980

Restaurants are located in central London at 1 Victoria street and 151 Buckingham Palace road. They are run on a commercial basis by our contracted catering service provider and BIS does not therefore provide a direct subsidy. However, the contractor is not charged for the space that is occupied by the restaurants at both locations. BIS also meets the costs for any replacement 'heavy' equipment in the restaurants, e.g. ovens, freezers, dishwashers etc.

The 1 Victoria street restaurant was last refurbished in 2001 and the spend shown above for that year relates to new equipment purchased as part of the refurbishment. The refurbishment of the restaurant was part of a wider refurbishment of the Conference Centre, which adjoins the restaurant at 1 Victoria street, and it is not possible to split further refurbishment costs for the restaurant from the cost of the refurbishment of the area as a whole.

The figure for 2004-05 relates to the purchase of new equipment for the restaurant at 151 Buckingham Palace road and works to the sump.

The figure shown for 2005-06 relates to a project undertaken to enlarge the kitchen dishwasher area in the 1 Victoria street restaurant and includes the costs for new dishwashers.

The figures shown for 2007-08 and 2009-10 were for replacement equipment in the restaurant at 1 Victoria street.

Departmental Legislation

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what files on *(a)* the Abortion Act 1967 and *(b)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (i) 1990 and (ii) 2008 his Department has created since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [5528]

Mr Willetts: This Department has created no files on *(a)* the Abortion Act 1967 and *(b)* the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (i) 1990 and (ii) 2008, since July 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff worked in his Department's ministerial support office on *(a)* 1 May 2010 and *(b)* 1 July 2010. [6156]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* On 1 May 2010 there were 40 people in the Department's ministerial Private Offices and on 1 July 2010 there were 30.

East of England Development Agency

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what websites have been *(a)* operated and *(b)* commissioned by the East of England Development Agency in each year since its establishment; how much each such website cost the Agency in each such year; what estimate has been made of the number of unique visitors to each site in each such year; what estimate has been made of the average length of time each visitor spent on such websites in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [5231]

Mr Prisk: The following tables provide the details of East of England Development Agency's websites since its establishment:

Costs for websites commissioned and operated by EEDA

£

Website/domain	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
www.eeda.org.uk	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,472	8,824	51,403	94,909	89,947	63,509	71,156	88,821
www.eastofengland.uk.com	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,590	11,265	1,220	1,250	0	0	0	19,500
www.takeiton.org.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,725	28,275	1,500
www.RunningtheGauntlet.com	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[1]22,600	[1]7,433	[1]37,100	—
www.BigFish.com	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—
www.bizgrowtheast.com	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—
www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,000	20,000
www.insighteast.org.uk[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	50,000	47,172	34,153	77,452	46,364	35,360	15,130
www.spaceforideas.uk.com/	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,000	17,235	2,567	900	0	1,077	—
www.bizmapeast.co.uk/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26,860	900	44,090
www.landmarkeast.org.uk	—	—	—	—	12,131	13,707	11,422	1,259	1,095	1,245	945
www.erebusonline.org.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,930
www.dpeast.org	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,930

n/a = Data not available
'—' = Denote that the site was not in operation (or is no longer operated by EEDA).
[1] Indicates brace
[2] Insight East was previously
www.eastofenglandobservatory.org.uk
The site uses the same content management system but the domain name has changed.
Note:
Hosting costs are included in the EEDA line but are shared across the following sites:
www.eeda.org.uk
www.eastofengland.uk.com
www.takeiton.org.uk
www.RunningtheGauntlet.com
www.BigFish.com
www.bizgrowtheast.com

Unique visitors to and average time spent on websites commissioned and operated by EEDA

Website/domain	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
www.eeda.org.uk	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	102,478	128,493	129,901
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3m1s	2m22s	2m27s
www.eastofengland.uk.com	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
www.takeiton.org.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,050	6,285	2,369
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3m9s	2m20s	2m16s
www.RunningtheGauntlet.com	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	[1]10,511	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	[1]2m40s	—
www.BigFish.com	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	[1]—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	[1]—	—
www.bizgrowtheast.com	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	[1]—	—

Unique visitors to and average time spent on websites commissioned and operated by EEDA

Website/domain	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	[2]—	—
www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a
www.insighteast.org.uk[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
www.spaceforideas.uk.com/	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—
www.bizmapeast.co.uk/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	7,840	23,500
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	3m26s	3m31s
www.landmarkeast.org.uk	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
www.erebusonline.org.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a
www.dpeast.org	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a

n/a = Data not available

'—' = Denotes that the site was not in operation

[1] Indicates brace

[2] Indicates brace

[3] Insight East was previously www.eastofenglandobservatory.org.uk

Details of the websites

www.eeda.org.uk

EEDA's website is the organisation's main point of contact with businesses, external stakeholders and the media. This site hosts statutory information, such as the regional economic strategy, EEDA's annual report and accounts and board papers, as well as up to date information on business events, contracts and tenders, and media announcements. The website is an interface through which the public are able to contact the organisation, sign up to e-briefings, or find their way to current economic intelligence and statistics.

www.eastofengland.uk.com

The East of England website was set up to promote the region as a profitable place to do business and a vibrant place to live in and visit. This website is also used by the business community in the region and hosts current campaigns and information of relevance to businesses operating in the East of England.

www.takeiton.org.uk

Takeiton is a business support programme designed to help business recognise and implement business improvement through the effective use of IT. The website was designed to promote the programme of grants and specialist IT advice as well as show case best practice.

www.RunningtheGauntlet.com

www.BigFish.com

www.bizgrowtheast.com

Established to promote and support a business support programme designed to help early stage SME's attract angel and VC investment.

www.bizmapeast.co.uk/

Is an innovative online tool to help small businesses identify the support that is right for their needs. The website is being adopted by partners and local authorities and has been widely commended by businesses and business representative groups.

www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk

Cut your Carbon was a campaign that offers support and information to communities in the East of England that want to tackle climate change. The website was the primary interface between EEDA's Cut Your Carbon team and participating communities across the East of England.

www.insighteast.org.uk

Insight East (formerly the East of England Observatory) is the regional intelligence centre for the East of England. Insight East provides a range of services to help the region's decision-makers better understand the economy and factors affecting it.

www.spaceforideas.uk.com

The space for ideas website was created to support the East of England regional promotion campaign, focusing on supporting businesses to improve their performance while at the same time supporting the region as a great place to live and work. It contained a suite of material designed to encourage creative thinking and problem solving with materials to download and use.

www.landmarkeast.org.uk

Landmark East is a competition launched by EEDA to find a regional landmark for the East of England.

www.erebusonline.org.uk

Established to capture business and domestic demand for next generation broadband services in the East of England. The information is provided free to commercial and public organisations to support the business case for broadband infrastructure projects. This initiative has been widely welcomed by commercial organisations and has significant support in the region.

www.dpeast.org

Is an online community site established to support collaboration in the development of community and commercial broadband projects.

EU External Trade: Colombia and Peru

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 316W, on Peru: EU external trade, what mechanisms are in place to monitor the implementation of the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter of the EU-Andean (Peru and Colombia) Free Trade Agreement. [5987]

Mr Davey: The Trade and Sustainable Development chapter of the agreement incorporates a clause committing each party to establish a Council on Trade and Sustainable Development. The Council shall consist of representatives responsible for labour, environmental and trade matters who will meet within the first year following the entry into force of the agreement and thereafter as necessary. The Council will have a duty to identify actions for achievement of the objectives of the agreement and to identify recommendations for good implementation. Once a year the Council will meet with civil society organisations and the public to carry out discussions related to the implementation of this chapter.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 316W, on Peru: EU external trade, whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on the level of illegal logging in the Peruvian Amazon of the EU-Andean (Peru and Colombia) Free Trade Agreement. [5988]

Mr Davey: The European Commission has undertaken extensive analysis of the EU-Andean (Peru and Colombia) Free Trade Agreement, which is in the public domain. The latest report, dating from July 2009 prior to conclusion of negotiations, states that increased market access for processed timber products can be expected to add to existing deforestation trends, and illegal logging is a significant contributor to this problem. The Sustainable Development chapter of the agreement contains provisions to counter this, aiming to improve forest law enforcement and governance, and promote trade in legal and sustainable forest products.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 316W, on Peru: EU external trade, what recent assessment he has made of the merits of the human rights suspension clause in the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter of the EU-Andean (Peru and Colombia) Free Trade Agreement. [5989]

Mr Davey: The Human Rights suspension clause in the EU-Andean (Peru and Colombia) Free Trade Agreement sends an important political signal that EU member states will always aim to promote principles of human rights and democracy. It also provides a locus for the EU to regularly raise human rights concerns with Peru and Colombia.

Further Education: Finance

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which further education colleges are eligible to apply for funding from the College Investment Fund. [5485]

Mr Hayes: There are 158 colleges eligible to receive a share of the renewal grant. These colleges are listed as follows. These very same colleges are also eligible to apply for a share of the enhanced renewal grant.

Eligible colleges

Abingdon and Witney college
Accrington and Rossendale college
Amersham and Wycombe college
Askham Bryan
Aylesbury college
Barking college
Barnfield college
Basingstoke college of technology
Bedford college
Bexley college
Bicton college
Blackburn college
Blackpool and the Fylde college
Boston college, Lincolnshire
Bournemouth and Poole further education college
Bradford college
Bridgwater college
Brockenhurst college
Brooklands college
Brooksby Melton college
Burton college
Bury college
Cambridge regional college
Capel Manor college
Carlisle college
Carshalton college
Central Bedfordshire college
Chelmsford college
Chesterfield college
Chichester college
Cirencester college
City college Brighton
City college Plymouth
City of Bath college
City of Sunderland college
City of Wolverhampton college
Cleveland college of art and design
College of Harringey, Enfield and North East London
College of West Anglia
Craven college
Dearne Valley college
Derwentside college
Dudley college
Eastleigh college
Fareham college
Farnborough college of technology (FCOT)
Fircroft college of adult education
Grantham college
Greenwich community college

Grimsby Institute
Guildford college of further and higher education
Hackney community college
Halesowen college
Harlow college
Harrow college
Hartpury college
Havering college of further education
Henley college, Coventry
Hereford college of arts
Hereward college, Coventry
Hillcroft college
Hopwood Hall college
Hugh Baird college
Hull college
Huntingdonshire regional college
Isle of Wight college
Joseph Priestley college
Kensington and Chelsea college
Kidderminster college
Kingston college
Kingston Maurward college
Knowsley Community college
Lakes College West Cumbria
Lancaster and Morecambe college
Leeds college of art and design
Leeds college of building
Leek college of further education and school of art
Lewisham college
Lincoln college
Loughborough college
Lowestoft college
Mary Ward Centre (The)
Mid Cheshire college
Milton Keynes college
Motley college
Moulton college
Myerscough college
New college Nottingham
New college Stamford
New college Swindon
Newbury college
Newham college of further education
Northern college for residential adult education
PETROC (new name for North and East Devon colleges)
North East Surrey college of technology (Nescot)
North East Worcestershire college
North Hertfordshire college
North Lindsey college
North Nottinghamshire college
North Warwickshire and Hinckley college
Northbrook college
Northumberland college
Norton Radstock college
Norwich City college
Oaklands college
Otley college
Oxford and Cherwell Valley college
Peterborough regional college
Plymouth college of art and design
Preston college
Redbridge college
Richmond adult community college
Richmond upon Thames college
Riverside college Halton
Rotherham college of arts and technology
Royal Forest of Dean college
Runshaw college
Ruskin college
Salford college
SEEVIC (Essex)
Shipley college
Shrewsbury college of arts and technology
South Downs college
South Nottingham
South Staffordshire college
South Tyneside college
South Worcestershire college
Southgate college
Southport college
Southwark college
Sparsholt college
Stafford college, Staffordshire
Stanmore college
Stourbridge college
Stratford college
Strode college
Sussex Downs college
Tameside college
Telford college of arts and technology
Thanet college
The Calderdale colleges Corporation
The Henley college
The Oldham college
Tower Hamlets college
Tyne metropolitan college
Uxbridge college
Wakefield college
Walford and North Shropshire college
Waltham Forest college
West Nottinghamshire college
West Suffolk college
Weymouth college
Wiltshire college
Worcester college of technology
Workers' Educational Association
Working Men's college (The)
Worthing college
Yeovil college

Further Education: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which further education colleges in London will be eligible to apply for funds from the £50 million of capital funding announced by his Department on 21 June 2010. [6465]

Mr Hayes: There are 27 further education colleges from the Greater London Region eligible to receive a share of the £30 million 'Renewal Grant'. These colleges are listed as follows. These very same colleges are also eligible to apply for a share of the £20 million 'Enhanced Renewal Grant'.

Eligible colleges

Barking college
Bexley college
Capel Manor college
Carshalton college
College of Harringey, Enfield and North East London
Greenwich Community college
Hackney Community college
Harrow college
Havering college of further education
Hillcroft college
Kensington and Chelsea college
Kingston college
Lewisham college
Mary Ward Centre (The)
Morley college
Newham college of further education
Redbridge college
Richmond Adult Community college
Richmond upon Thames college
Southgate college
Southwark college
Stanmore college
Tower Hamlets college
Uxbridge college
Waltham Forest college
Workers' Educational Association
Working Men's college (The)

Graduates: Employment

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance he plans to provide to graduate jobseekers. [6161]

Mr Willetts: We recognise that the job market remains competitive for new graduates in these difficult economic times, as it does for others. However, a degree remains a good investment in the long term.

The Government are committed to helping prepare graduates find work. That is why it is vital that prospective students are equipped with the best possible information up front, which is why I have asked universities to provide employability statements to help them make informed choices.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 314-15, on higher education: anti-Semitism, when he plans to meet representatives of the Jewish community and the higher education sector; if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda of that meeting; and if he will make a statement; [5379]

(2) what his policy is on the continuance of the higher education sub-group of the cross-Government working group on anti-Semitism; what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues about this group since his appointment; and if he will make a statement; [5584]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued to higher education institutions on combating *(a)* anti-Semitism, *(b)* stereotyping of the Jewish community and *(c)* violent extremism; what discussions his Department has had with the Jewish community on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [5585]

Mr Willetts: The meeting with Jewish community and higher education stakeholders is in the process of being arranged and I anticipate that it will involve broad discussions on anti-Semitism and the implications for the higher education sector, including the future of the BIS Anti-Semitism and Higher Education Group. A formal agenda has not yet been agreed for this meeting but I would be happy to place a copy in the Library when it is available. I have held no discussions with ministerial colleagues about this group.

The former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills provided updated and revised guidance to higher education institutions on 'Promoting Good Campus Relations, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism in Universities and Higher Education Colleges', available here:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/extremismhe.pdf

This provided detailed guidance to help institutions address issues concerning violent extremism, applicable to any form this might take on campus. The Department has not issued any guidance about the stereotyping of any community.

The sector itself has also produced guidance which offers institutions practical strategies to deal with instances of hate crimes and intolerance on campus, including anti-Semitism.

There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and report criminal attacks to the police when they occur on campus, or support students to do so.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which directorate of his Department has responsibility for the *(a)* formulation and *(b)* implementation of policy on (i) countering anti-Semitism in higher education, (ii) the higher education sub-group of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism, (iii) the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism and (iv) Government policy on the work of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism; how many officials in his Department at each pay band are employed in this Directorate; what other posts in his Department each such official has held; and if he will make a statement. [5586]

Mr Willetts: The higher education directorate has the responsibility for policy on anti-Semitism in higher education. There are four officials within this directorate who cover policy on anti-Semitism as part of their remit—by grade these are two senior civil servants, one team leader and one higher executive officer. As experienced civil servants these officials have undertaken work in a number other posts across Government in the past.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what files his Department holds on *(a)* the higher education sub-group of the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism, *(b)* the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism, *(c)* the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into anti-Semitism and *(d)* countering anti-Semitism in higher education; and if he will make a statement. [5587]

Mr Willetts: The Department holds the necessary records on each of *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(d)* to enable officials to provide the appropriate policy support to Ministers.

Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will introduce regulations requiring mobile phone retailers to display prominently at the point of sale the amount of radiation absorbed by the user for each particular model. [5484]

Mr Vaizey: We have no plans to introduce such requirements. Advice on the availability of specific absorption rates (SAR) values from mobile phones was given in the May 2000 report (Stewart Report) from the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones and an update was given in the Mobile Phones and Health 2004 Report from the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) now merged into the Health Protection Agency.

In addition, the UK's four Mobile Network Operators, namely 3UK, 02, Vodafone and Everything Everywhere (following the merger of Orange and T-Mobile in March 2010) have resources within their customer service departments to provide information and advice to users regarding SAR values on handsets.

Information about SAR values is available on manufacturers' websites and also on the Mobile Manufacturers Forum website at:

www.mmfai.org

Rover Group

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the contribution by the Secretary of State in response to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Northfield on 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 898, what the outcome has been of his inquiries into the status of the MG Rover Trust Fund. [6415]

Mr Prisk: The Department has looked into this issue. Secretary of State wrote to the Hon Member on 4 July enclosing a copy of a letter to the Justice for Rover Workers Group which set out the Department's position. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Video Games: North East

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the computer games industry in the North East on assistance to that industry. [6166]

Mr Vaizey: BIS Ministers have had none. However, as the hon. Member will know, the computer games industry is very important to the economy in the north-east. As such, I hope to speak to representatives from the industry in the near future to discuss how the cuts to corporation tax to 24%, announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his emergency budget, and the increase in the employer national insurance threshold will stimulate further growth and expansion of this sector.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Internet

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criteria have been set to govern the creation of new Government websites; and what role his Department's Efficiency Board will have in *(a)* the application of those criteria and *(b)* otherwise in the process of establishing a new Government website. [6538]

Mr Maude: I am determined to reduce the number of Government websites and so the creation of any new sites will be exceptional and only permitted where its objective cannot be met in any other way. The reduction in the number of websites is part of the overall control on communications spending, which the Efficiency Board is overseeing.

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Your Freedom website cost to build; what his most recent estimate is of the projected running costs for the website in each of the next three years; what the monetary value is of his Department's contract with Delib in respect of the website; on what date the creation of the website was authorised by his Department's Efficiency Board; and if he will make a statement. [6539]

Mr Maude: The total cost of building

www.hmg.gov.uk/yourfreedom

was £3,200 including vat. The application, which was bought off the shelf, is situated on an existing website

www.hmg.gov.uk

The most recent estimate for projected running costs for the website in this financial year is £19,853.98 including VAT; this includes the building costs mentioned. This is an approximation because the overall cost is related to the amount of traffic received by the application. This cost could go up or down according to volume of traffic. It is not possible to give running costs over a three year time period as the lifespan of the project has not yet been decided.

The creation of the Your Freedom website did not come before the Efficiency Board as the estimated cost was below the £20,000 threshold for approval.

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what policy on moderation is applied to his Department's Your Freedom website. [6542]

Mr Maude: The moderation policy is available on the Your Freedom application at

www.hmg.gov.uk/yourfreedom/moderation-policy

Government Departments: Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office from whom he received adviee on conducting his Department's survey into non-payroll staff in respect of departments and non-departmental public bodies. [6368]

Mr Maude: Further to my answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 525W in conducting the recent work force management information scoping exercise, advice was sought from appropriate Cabinet Office officials.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Liverpool

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many of those resident in Liverpool have been in receipt of jobseekers' allowance for over 12 months. [6413]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 6 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many of those resident in Liverpool have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months. (6413)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

There were 4,979 people resident in Liverpool in receipt of JSA for over 12 months in May 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Absent Voting: Fraud

Graham Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps his Department plans to take to prevent postal vote fraud. [4345]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to tackling all forms of electoral fraud. We have set out our intention to tackle fraudulent electoral registration by speeding up the introduction of individual electoral registration. I understand that the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers will produce a joint report on allegations of electoral malpractice early next year. We will consider carefully the findings of this report and any recommendations about this issue contained in the reports of the Electoral Commission into the conduct of the recent general election.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 7 July 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

1 Parliament Street: Air Conditioning

Mr Amess: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission what steps the House authorities *(a)* have recently taken and *(b)* plan to take to improve the air conditioning within 1 Parliament street; and if he will make a statement. [6230]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Parliamentary Estates Directorate (PED) has recently upgraded the building management system at 1 Parliament street, allowing improved monitoring and control of the air conditioning plant and equipment serving the building. PED also routinely carries out maintenance of the building's ventilation and cooling systems.

PED has commissioned a feasibility study into all of the mechanical and electrical services in the block of buildings fronting onto Parliament street. The feasibility study will include options for improving the ventilation and cooling systems within 1 Parliament street and will be linked to works to alter the windows, in order to improve energy efficiency and provide improved blast protection. The associated report is due for completion in the autumn of 2010.

DEFENCE

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles are *(a)* deployed in theatre, *(b)* under repair and *(c)* held in reserve. [5863]

Nick Harvey: I am withholding information on the number of vehicles deployed in Afghanistan for operational security reasons.

The number of armoured vehicles under repair, not including those in Afghanistan, and held in reserve as at 27 June are shown in the following table:

Vehicle	*Level 1 and 2 Repair (Minor Service and repair)*	*Level 3 and 4 Repair (Extensive repair and overhaul)*	*Storage (Reserve)*
AS90	25	9	48
Challenger 2	40	19	191
CRAARV	15	14	14
Warrior	50	165	193
Bulldog	43	52	290
CVR(T)	83	151	281
Titan	8	0	0
Trojan	9	0	0
Viking[1]	5	42	11

[1] The figures for Viking are at 5 July 2010

The numbers of vehicles in level 1 and 2 repair will vary significantly from day to day. Most vehicles in this category will normally be back in service in 24 to 48 hours.

Army

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the cost of adding an additional brigade to the army. [4553]

Nick Harvey: At this time no estimate has been made within the Department of adding an additional brigade to the Army. To provide an indicative costing would be unrealistic since it would depend on what role any such brigade was designed for. There are significant differences in the composition of a Heavy Brigade as opposed to a Light Brigade or an Airborne Brigade in terms of manpower, training, equipment and accommodation. For this reason it is not possible to give an indicative figure.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) will bring defence policy, plans, commitments and resources into balance, and produce over time a transformative change to British defence.

At the heart of Defence contribution to the SDSR will be a thorough examination of our force structure, looking at the overall shape, size and role of armed forces personnel and MOD civil servants, including the reserve forces. Depending on the outcome of the SDSR, some capabilities may be reduced in order to enhance others and provide the most effective suite of measures for defending the UK's interests.

This will not be a salami-slicing review but one which provides coherent long-term policy direction and takes the tough choices required to produce the armed forces and wider defence capabilities the country will need in the decades ahead.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5542]

Mr Robathan: None.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the roles and responsibilities are of the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans; [5772]

(2) on what matters *(a)* within and *(b)* outside his listed ministerial responsibilities the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans answers questions for written answer. [6357]

Mr Robathan: The roles and responsibilities of my post are similar to those fulfilled by the hon. Member when he was a Defence Minister. I have responsibility for service personnel, civil servants and the wider service family including reservists, cadets, ex-service personnel and families. This includes pay, allowances, entitlements and welfare.

I am also responsible for: estates matters; climate change and environmental issues; and, commemorative issues and medals.

In addition, I am responsible for the following agencies: The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency; the Pay, People and Pensions Agency; the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency; the Defence Vetting Agency; the Hydrographic Office; and the Meteorological Office.

I respond to written parliamentary questions (WPQs) on all of these issues. When the appropriate Minister is unavailable, however, the Ministry of Defence makes arrangements for another available Minister to approve and sign off WPQs to ensure that they are answered promptly.

HMS Sultan

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission an assessment of the social and economic effects on Gosport of the proposed transfer of HMS Sultan to South Wales. [5359]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her on 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 350W, by my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Peter Luff). It is too early to consider commissioning an assessment.

Military Bases: Aviation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the role of military airfields in defending the UK. [5848]

Nick Harvey: The Strategic Defence and Security Review is looking at a wide range of options to ensure that the Department has the right balance of resources to meet its commitments, and that the Defence Budget is spent as efficiently, effectively and economically as possible.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sorties the Nimrod MR2 has flown in support of *(a)* counter-narcotics, *(b)* search and research and *(c)* anti-submarine warfare operations from RAF bases in the UK in each year since 2001. [6305]

Nick Harvey: The Nimrod MR2 was based at RAF Kinloss until it went out of service in April this year. The number of search and rescue sorties flown by MR2 aircraft from RAF Kinloss in each year since 2005 is provided in the following table. Information prior to 2005 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of sorties
2005	28
2006	28
2007	17
2008	25
2009	11
2010 (until 31 March)	3

I am withholding the number of sorties the Nimrod MR2 has flown in support of counter-narcotics operations as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces. I am also withholding information on anti-submarine warfare operations for reasons of national security.

RAF St Athan

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the proposed private finance initiative project for the Engineering Training School at RAF St Athan over the next 30 years. [5375]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* The current estimate of the cost of Defence Training Rationalisation Package 1 project is £14 billion. This represents the cost for the provision of the construction of new facilities at St Athan and the whole operating costs for the entire 30 year life of the project. These operating costs include staff, catering and maintenance costs, the majority of which we already carry today.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Attorney-General whether the Serious Fraud Office plans to increase the resources it uses to investigate and prosecute international corruption; and if he will make a statement. [5606]

The Solicitor-General: The SFO recognises the importance of this work and continues to investigate and prosecute serious and complex international corruption on a case by case basis. Resources will continue to be allocated according to business needs.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Attorney-General how many reports of UK involvement in foreign bribery have been reported by each UK overseas post to the Serious Fraud Office. [5610]

The Attorney-General: The Serious Fraud Office regularly receives reports from other Government Departments as part of its investigations, and records indicate that 14 reports were received from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 2005.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Attorney-General which Ministers in the Law Officers' Departments have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Departments and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5538]

The Solicitor-General: Exact records are not maintained on day to day usage of ministerial cars; however, every effort is made to minimise their use. Whenever possible the Law Officers walk between the Department and the House of Commons. The car is only used when there is a clear business need; normally for timing or security reasons.

Law Officers

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4859]

The Solicitor-General: The amount spent on catering by the Law Officers' Departments from 1997 to 2009 is outlined as follows.

Treasury Solicitors Department (Tsol):

Spending by Tsol on catering for the financial years from 1998-2010 is detailed in the following table. The data also covers the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate for whom Tsol has financial responsibility.

The increase in expenditure in the year ending 31 March 2006 and onwards is accounted for by the creation of in-house facilities when Tsol relocated in August 2005. The expenditure from that date includes an operating subsidy paid to support the staff cafeteria and the cost of refreshments provided at training events, which had previously been accounted for as training costs. Since May 2006 the service has been shared with other building users who meet their share of the costs.

It is not possible to provide the information for earlier years without incurring a disproportionate cost.

	£
1998-99	7,221.54
1999-2000	9,809.84
2000-01	10,847.66
2001-02	11,814.39
2002-03	18,368.24
2003-04	18,673.70
2004-05	37,383.31
2005-06	123,768.07
2006-07	146,452.81
2007-08	147,435.10
2008-09	110,800.33
2009-10	108,053.37

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO):

The Serious Fraud Office does not provide in house catering services, but does on occasion provide hospitality for external meetings, and refreshments for internal meetings where external visitors are present. The amount spent on this is detailed in the following table.

Financial year	*Total*
1997-98	16,326
1998-99	14,650
1999-2000	13,869
2000-01	12,126
2001-02	18,984
2002-03	20,287
2003-04	18,385
2004-05	18,142
2005-06	31,452
2006-07	23,005
2007-08	42,210
2008-09	41,362
2009-10	36,968

The National Fraud Authority (NFA):

Since its launch in 2008 the NFA has spent £4,000 and £4,916.37 on catering in 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS):

The CPS does not hold full central records of spending on catering throughout the service for all the years in question. The information sought could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, it is possible to provide a breakdown of CPS HQ costs relating to the canteen subsidy as far back as 2003-04. In addition, central records of catering expenditure are held for the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO), who merged with the CPS in January 2010, since 2005-06.

CPS HQ catering costs—canteen subsidy

	Canteen subsidy (£)
2003-04	117,274
2004-05	130,206
2005-06	123,488
2006-07	94,321
2007-08	127,234
2008-09	130,074

RCPO catering costs

	Expenditure (£)
2005-06	5,956
2006-07	8,460
2007-08	6,420
2008-09	14,550

SCOTLAND

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6456]

David Mundell: I attended an induction workshop for new Ministers, organised by the National School for Government. There was no charge to the Scotland Office for the workshop.

Departmental Travel

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost to the public purse was of first and business class travel paid for by his Department in 2009-10. [6104]

Michael Moore: The Scotland Office does not separately record information and expenditure on first class travel. It is Scotland Office policy not to use first class travel for officials. All ministerial travel is undertaken by the most efficient and cost effective way, in accordance with the Ministerial Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of expenditure by his Department and its predecessors on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6116]

Robert Neill: The Department's expenditure on conference *(a)* organisation and *(b)* attendance for the last four financial years is as follows:

£

	Conference organisation	*Conference attendance*	*Totals*
2006-07	1,450,377	574,723	2,025,100
2007-08	1,836,863	909,582	2,746,444
2008-09	1,513,585	623,727	2,137,312
2009-10	1,292,495	673,348	1,965,843
Totals	6,093,320	2,781,379	8,874,699

Figures for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on potential changes to fire service pensions. [6238]

Robert Neill: No recent representations have been received.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant: Tower Hamlets

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Housing and Planning Delivery Grant the London borough of Tower Hamlets has received from the Government in each year since its inception; and how much will be made available in 2010-11. [5838]

Robert Neill: Housing and Planning Delivery Grant commenced in 2008-09 and London borough of Tower Hamlets received the following awards:

	HPDG Award (£)
2008-09	1,683,359
2009-10	2,326,542

There will be no Housing and Planning Delivery Grant allocations in 2010-11 as detailed in the announcement on the £1.166 billion Local Government contributed to the £6.2 billion cross government savings in 2010-11.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 35-6WS, on planning reform, what mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure that no application lodged with the Infrastructure Planning Commission will take longer to consider under the *(a)* transition and *(b)* new arrangements than under the current system. [5994]

Greg Clark: During the transitional period before new legislation can be brought into effect, the existing provisions of the Planning Act 2008 which set the timetable for the examination, recommendations and decision making functions, will continue to apply.

We intend that the new arrangements will also include a statutory timetable for these functions, which allows no longer than is currently permitted for them to be carried out.

In addition, by requiring National Planning Statements to be ratified by Parliament, the scope for judicial review of planning decisions for major infrastructure projects will be reduced.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, on planning reform, what timetable he has set for abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [6000]

Greg Clark: We anticipate that primary legislation to abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be brought forward in the current Session of Parliament and abolition of this body will be put into effect as soon as it is possible to do so following the passage of the legislation.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, on planning reform, what legislative proposals he plans to bring forward to establish the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit. [6001]

Greg Clark: As the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 35-36WS, makes clear, we intend to establish a major infrastructure planning unit as part of the Planning Inspectorate. Because it will be established in an existing agency of Communities and Local Government, its establishment will be effected through administrative rather than statutory processes.

The Government will bring forward primary legislation to effect the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission in the current Session of Parliament, paving the way for the major infrastructure planning unit to be established.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official*

Report, columns 35-6WS, on planning reform, what estimate he has made of the cost of abolishing the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [6002]

Greg Clark: We expect the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission to save taxpayers' money as the IPC has not had time to build up significant liabilities. I have asked the chief executive of the IPC and the Planning Inspectorate to work together to ensure that these savings are realised.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the costs incurred as a result of the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [6132]

Robert Neill: We expect the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission to save taxpayers' money as the IPC has not had time to build up significant liabilities. I have asked the chief executive of the IPC and the Planning Inspectorate to work together to ensure that these savings are realised.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to abolish the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [6134]

Greg Clark: The Government will bring forward primary legislation to effect the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission in the current session of Parliament.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to establish the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit; what its *(a)* proposed annual budget and *(b)* location will be; and how many staff it will employ. [6135]

Greg Clark: The Major Infrastructure Planning Unit will be established to operate as a unit within the Planning Inspectorate.

(a) As part of the contribution towards the efficiency drive across Government Departments and their arm's length bodies and agencies, running cost for the period 2010-11 has been reduced by 10.5% to £6,265 million. Budgets for future years have not been agreed.

(b) The Major Infrastructure Planning Unit will be based in Bristol as part of the Planning Inspectorate.

(c) The number of staff in the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit will vary according to number of planning applications it is considering.

Local Government: Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of local government expenditure in England was for staffing costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [6513]

Robert Neill: The percentage of local government total service expenditure in England which was attributable to employee costs was 49%, in 2008-09, which are the latest figures available.

This figure is published in Table 6.2a (Page 129) of the Local Government Financial Statistics England No.20 2010, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House or on Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/financialstatistics202010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6110]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available. Since 12 April the Department has incurred no expenditure in this area.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5913]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the NI Assembly. Comparable figures from previous years for the Department as now configured are not available.

The Northern Ireland Office, as now configured, has one member of staff who spends approximately 25% of her time on promoting diversity and monitoring performance at an estimated annual cost of £10,000.

Departmental Finance

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Northern Ireland Executive departments will have their levels of funding under the block grant protected. [5338]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Government announced in the June 2010 Budget that they are committed to protecting health and overseas aid in the Spending Review. Health is a devolved programme so the Northern Ireland Executive will benefit from health being protected in England through the operation of Barnett formula consequentials in the spending review. However it is for the Northern Ireland Executive to make its own decisions on how to allocate its block budget in Northern Ireland.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5975]

Mr Paterson: There have been no items recorded as lost or stolen in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) in the last 12 months.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6458]

Mr Paterson: My hon. Friend the Minister of State attended a ministerial induction workshop on 27 May arranged by the National School for Government on behalf of No. 10 and the Cabinet Office. There was no charge for this course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5978]

John Penrose: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the hon. Member for Bradford South (Mr Sutcliffe) to the then Member for Glasgow East (John Mason) on 17 March 2010, *Official Report*, column 889W.

Additionally, during the last 12 months the following items were recorded as lost or stolen.

Item	*Date*	*Lost/Stolen*	*Estimated cost of replacement (£)*
Memory Stick	September 2009	Lost	41
Mobile Phone	May 10	Stolen	150
Blackberry	May 10	Stolen	200
Blackberry	May 10	Stolen	164
Mobile Phone	June 10	Lost	150

In the last 12 months the following work of art has also been reported missing from the Government Art Collection and is as yet un-located.

Item	*Date*	*Status*	*Estimated cost of replacement (£)*
Henry Powle (1630-1692) Speaker of the House of Commons and Master of the Rolls, engraving after Godfrey Kneller	April 10	Not found at inventory check at Royal Courts of Justice	100

Departmental Manpower

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5109]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The cost of the Human Resource Team in DCMS for the last two years can be seen in the following table:

		£
Description	*2008-09 Spend*	*2009-10 Spend*
Staff Costs	851,315.39	755,714.25
Non-Staff Costs	90,989.86	51,778.87
Annual Total	942,305.25	807,493.12

Prior to 2008-09, the Human Resources Team were part of a larger team including staff supporting the Department's IT system and estate management.

Costs relating to the Human Resources Team could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 150WH, on local media, what definition of the term multi-platform, multi-media ecosystem he uses. [6342]

Mr Vaizey: A "thriving, multi-platform local media ecosystem" is defined as local media businesses, operating on a commercially sustainable basis, continuing to innovate to produce local content across a range of platforms (such as the internet, television, radio and print), and potentially syndicating the delivery of this content.

Public Libraries: Information Services

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps he is taking to encourage community libraries to provide access to and information on local authority services; [4759]

(2) if he will encourage libraries located in town centres to match their opening times to those of peak shopping times. [4762]

Mr Vaizey: People's expectations of their library services have changed and local authorities need to be responsive to the needs and wants of their customers. Responsibility and accountability for day to day management of individual library services, including opening hours and providing local authority information, is devolved to local authorities and their communities. However, DCMS is committed to helping local government find solutions to the problems it faces. A new support programme led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Local Government Association Group will support councils, especially those who want to work in partnership with each other, to drive efficiencies and deliver an effective service. The learning and experience from that programme will be shared widely across the sector.

TRANSPORT

Airport Economic Regulation Bill

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's officials are working on preparations for the Airport Economic Regulation Bill. [5027]

Mrs Villiers: There are currently around 16 Department for Transport officials whose work includes contributing to aspects of preparing the Airport Economic Regulation Bill. This includes policy advisers, lawyers and economists.

Aviation: Passengers

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's latest projections are of air passenger numbers over the next 30 years. [4988]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport regularly publishes forecasts of the number of air passengers using UK airports. It did so most recently in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", published in January 2009. The Department keeps its forecasts under review and will publish updated forecasts as appropriate.

Crossrail: Pay

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* salary and *(b)* bonus was paid to each (i) executive and (ii) non-executive director of Crossrail Limited in 2009-10. [6127]

Mrs Villiers: Crossrail Limited is a 100% subsidiary of the Transport for London Group. As such the salary and bonuses paid to the executive and non-executive directors are a matter for the Mayor of London.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the roles and responsibilities are of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport. [5755]

Norman Baker: The responsibilities, which are published on the Department's website, are as follows:

Norman Baker

- Regional and Local Transport
- Buses and Taxis— including concessionary fares
- Walking and Cycling
- Accessibility and Equalities
- Alternatives to travel
- Light rail and trams
- Natural environment
- Parking
- Traffic management
- Corporate issues

Mike Penning

- Strategic Roads and Highways Agency
- Motoring agencies
- Road Safety and Standards
- Freight and Logistics—including lorry road user charging
- Maritime and Dangerous Goods—(including Maritime and Coastguard Agency)
- Better regulation.

Leamside Railway Line

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the Leamside Line in County Durham and Tyne and Wear; and if he will make a statement. [6512]

Mrs Villiers: There are no plans at present to re-open the Leamside Line. However, there are no plans to dispose of the land occupied by the line. The possibility for re-opening in the long term remains open, if running trains on this route is shown to be the best way of meeting regional and local transport needs.

Merchant Shipping: Registration

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the number of merchant naval ships registered in the UK on the requirement to pay wages to non-British sailors at the level of the national minimum wage. [6034]

Mike Penning: The previous Government commissioned a review into the practice of differential pay for seafarers recruited abroad. I wish to look afresh at the issues and evidence presented before taking further steps.

Network Rail: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what statutory powers he has in relation to arrangements for executive pay at Network Rail. [4970]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport currently has no statutory powers in relation to executive pay at Network Rail.

Railways

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the rail improvement schemes *(a)* between Liverpool and Leeds and *(b)* around Sheffield are for which funding was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Budget Statement of 22 June 2010; how much each such scheme will cost; and if he will make a statement. [4439]

Mrs Villiers: The improvement scheme between Liverpool and Leeds via Manchester consists of various network improvements to reduce journey times between these cities. The scheme relating to Sheffield consists of line speed improvements on the Midland Main Line between London, Nottingham and Sheffield via Derby. Both these schemes are under development by Network Rail. The cost of each scheme will be finally determined once the development work has been completed.

Railways: Cycling

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the budget allocated by his Department for improving cycling facilities at rail stations. [3913]

Mrs Villiers: £4 million has been made available through Cycling England for four flagship Bike 'n' Ride train operating companies. Over the two years 2009-11, Virgin Trains, Merseyrail, Northern Rail and South West Trains will be improving cycle facilities at stations across their network.

Future budgets will depend on decisions to be made in the comprehensive spending review.

Railways: Fares

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has for future levels of regulated rail fares; [3910]

(2) whether he plans to retain the formula for regulated rail fare increases of RPI inflation plus 1%. [4046]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to fairness on rail fares. We hope to be able to keep the current formula for the cap on regulated fares, but we will need to wait until further work has been done on the spending settlement before making a final decision on the fare formula for next year.

Railways: Freight

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the use of rail freight; and what support he plans to provide to freight companies and hauliers which transport goods using rail. [4977]

Mrs Villiers: The Government currently support the transfer of freight from road to rail, where it is practical and economically and environmentally sustainable to do so.

While I recognise the benefits that grant funding to encourage modal shift from road to rail freight can bring, the current financial climate means that we will have to make difficult spending decisions across Government. Decisions on the future of freight grant schemes will therefore be reached as part of the Spending Review.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on funding local railway improvements; and if he will make a statement. [4424]

Mrs Villiers: Local authorities have the power to fund railway improvements and can use locally determined budgets for this purpose. Government funding for local transport will be considered as part of the Spending Review.

Rolling stock

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what new rolling stock orders have been placed for each rail franchise since 2007. [4042]

Mrs Villiers: Rolling stock orders for franchised operators since 2007 are as shown in the following table.

Franchise	*Order date*	*Type*	*Vehicles*
Southern	May 2007	EMU	48
London Midland	August 2007	EMU	148
London Midland	December 2007	DMU	69
Chiltern Railway	January 2008	DMU	8
Southern	March 2008	EMU	44
Virgin West Coast	September 2008	EMU	106

Thameslink Railway Line

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 366W, on the Thameslink railway line, when a decision will be made on the way in which Wimbledon loop services will operate after the completion of the Thameslink programme. [6362]

Mrs Villiers: I anticipate that a decision on this matter will be taken some two years before the date of the timetable change, in line with normal railway industry planning timescales.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 366W, on the Thameslink railway line, whether the public will be consulted on the way in which Wimbledon loop services will operate after the completion of the Thameslink programme. [6363]

Mrs Villiers: It is a requirement of their franchise agreements that train operating companies must carry out public consultation on timetable changes.

Transport for London: Finance

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the budget of Transport for London. [3914]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Mayor on a variety of London transport issues, including funding.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what matters *(a)* within and *(b)* outside his listed Ministerial responsibilities the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport answers questions for written answer. [6358]

Norman Baker: The details of my ministerial responsibilities, which are published on the Department for Transport's website, are as follows:

Regional and Local Transport
Buses and Taxis—including concessionary fares
Walking and Cycling
Accessibility and Equalities
Alternatives to travel
Light rail and trams
Natural environment
Parking
Traffic management
Corporate issues

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aid Expenditure: Legislation

14. **Mr Russell Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to meet the 0.7 per cent. aid target before the UN Millennium Development Goals summit in September 2010. [6274]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: This Government are fully committed to our target of spending 0.7% of national income on development assistance from 2013. We will enshrine this commitment in law as swiftly as the parliamentary timetable allows.

Centre for Progressive Health Financing

15. **Alex Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the work of the Centre for Progressive Health Financing. [6275]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) has received representations from country governments including Liberia and Sierra Leone, both of which currently receive DFID support for health financing, and from a group of UK-based NGOs represented by Save the Children (UK).

I have recently initiated a review of DFID's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals. The way in which we will take forward our support for health financing will be determined as part of this review.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether all of the £200 million of additional aid money he announced on 10 June 2010 will be programmed under the authority of the Secretary of State for International Development alone. [5413]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I confirm that all of the £200 million of additional aid money for Afghanistan announced on 10 June 2010 will be programmed under my authority. As with all aid spending the £200 million will be in line with the OECD DAC definition.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development from which of his Department's budget lines the additional £200 million of additional aid money for Afghanistan announced on 10 June 2010 will be taken. [5414]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have commissioned a review of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) aid programmes, which will inform the allocation of aid for the next Spending Review period (2011-12 to 2014-15). Most of the £200 million will be allocated as part of this review, with any allocation during 2010-11 coming from unallocated contingency funds, including savings from low priority programmes and from waste and inefficiency under the last Government.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5714]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is responsible for one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC).

The head office of CSC is at Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HF.

Overseas Aid

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the overseas development budget is for 2010-11. [5486]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) budget for 2010-11 remains at £7.8 billion. Projections for the overall level of official development assistance for 2010-11 will be set out in the Spending Review later this year.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Manpower

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many staff IPSA employs; and how many it will employ in October 2010. [6849]

Mr Charles Walker: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has informed me that as of 7 July 2010, it employs 81 staff (80.5 FTE), of whom 27 are permanent and 54 are temporary.

The staffing levels in October 2010 will be dependent on the outcome of the organisational review. IPSA's intention is to reduce these numbers to approximately 55 as it reaches a steady state.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Leader of the House what estimate he has made of his Office's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6125]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House joined the Cabinet Office in 2007. Information prior to 2007 can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2007, the Office has incurred no costs for the organisation of conferences.

Information about the attendance of Leaders' Office staff at conferences is not held centrally and can therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Leader of the House what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Office in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5964]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Cabinet Office today.

EDUCATION

Academies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether there will be a standard Academy Arrangement which will be used between new Academy Schools and his Department. [4075]

Mr Gibb: We intend to publish a model funding agreement shortly to be used between new Academy schools and the Department.

Academies: Cheshire

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in the Cheshire East local authority area have expressed an interest in becoming academies. [4843]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 June 2010]:* The lists of schools that have expressed an interest in converting to academy status is published on the Department of Education's website, at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies

The lists will be updated frequently.

Academies: Nutrition

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether proposed Academy Arrangements will require academies to comply with nutritional standards for school meals. [4074]

Mr Gibb: Some existing academies are required to comply with these standards through their funding agreements. However, new academies will not be required to comply with nutritional standards for school meals: they will be free to promote healthy eating and good nutrition as they see fit.

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the total amount saved in school and college budgets attributable to the intervention of Becta in the procurement of IT equipment since 2003. [1412]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 June 2010]:* Total Office of Government Commerce audited cash savings from Becta's procurement frameworks for ICT equipment for schools and colleges from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2010 total £248 million.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to increase the efficiency of the education maintenance allowance system in order to reduce costs. [4079]

Mr Gibb: We have identified and made a saving of £10 million from the administration of the education maintenance allowance. This saving arises from the development of a more efficient system for processing EMA applications.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether education maintenance allowance (EMA) will continue to be paid in full in *(a)* the current academic year and *(b)* subsequent academic years; what his Department's policy is on the long-term retention of EMA; and if he will make a statement. [4084]

Mr Gibb: I can confirm that the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) will be paid in full in the 2010/11 academic year. The budget for EMA for 2010-11 is £564 million. Longer term plans for financial support for students aged between 16 and 19 will be considered in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for how long he plans to suspend the payment of bonuses under the Education Maintenance Allowance scheme. [4160]

Mr Gibb: We have no plans to reverse the decision made by the previous Government to stop paying bonuses on top of weekly Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payments.

Education: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what savings he plans to make from the budget for learner support in the next 12 months. [4080]

Mr Gibb: In addition to the £10 million savings in the administration of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2010-11, a further £5 million has been saved from several other learner support schemes through efficiencies in administration and some lower take-up.

Education: VAT

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the change in the level of valued added tax local education authorities will be required to pay in financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [4574]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 June 2010]*: The Department has not yet assessed the implications of the recent Budget changes around VAT. It will form part of our considerations for the spending review which is now in hand.

Education: Worcestershire

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase the funding which Worcestershire local education authority receives from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [3972]

Mr Gibb: We have made public our intention to hold a spending review this autumn, to conclude on 20 October. We expect to launch a consultation on school funding in the summer.

Financial Services: Education

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to include the provision of financial education within the National Curriculum. [4767]

Mr Gibb: The Government announced on 7 June our intention to make changes to the National Curriculum. We will announce more detailed plans in due course.

Free School Meals: Streatham

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of pupils resident in Streatham constituency who would have been entitled to free school meals had the plan to extend provision been implemented. [4517]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold information about eligibility for free school meals by constituency.

Free Schools: Cheshire

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest there have been in the free schools scheme in the Cheshire East local authority area. [4847]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 June 2010]*: The Department for Education has not received any formal proposals for free schools in the Cheshire East local authority area. Anyone who is interested in setting up a free school but is not yet ready to submit a formal proposal has been asked to contact the new schools network in the first instance.

Further Education: Greater London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will review the level of London area cost uplifts for post-16 education and training in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* the London borough of Brent. [4811]

Mr Gibb: All area costs for post-16 education were reviewed by the then Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in 2006. The outcome of that review was to retain the area cost uplifts as they were then, including for Greater London and the London borough of Brent. There are no current plans to review area cost uplifts for post-16 education and training.

History Curriculum

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish the new history curriculum for secondary schools in England. [3920]

Mr Gibb: The Government intend to review the National Curriculum. We will announce more detailed plans in due course.

Disadvantaged Pupils

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to finalise the formula for distribution of the pupil premium; and if he will make a statement. [4153]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to the introduction of the pupil premium for disadvantaged children. We will announce more details of our proposals in due course.

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to allocate funding to the proposed pupil premium from the budgets currently allocated to schools. [4157]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to the introduction of the pupil premium for disadvantaged children. This will be funded from savings found outside the schools budget.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the per *(a)* capita and *(b)* pupil funding (i) in each local education authority area and (ii) from each local education authority was in the (A) primary and (B) secondary sector in each of the last four years. [1140]

Mr Gibb: School funding is allocated based upon pupil numbers, not population numbers, and so the Department for Education does not have funding figures on a per capita basis.

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is distributed by the Department through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil for each local authority, so a primary/secondary split on a central to local government basis is not available.

Per pupil funding figures for 2006-07 to 2009-10 for all local authorities in England are provided in the following table. These include the DSG and other grants, are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms:

Local authority revenue funding per pupil

£

	2006—07	2007—08	2008—09	2009—10
Barking and Dagenham	4,960	5,240	5,270	5,390
Barnet	4,990	5,130	5,200	5,340
Barnsley	4,300	4,480	4,480	4,650

Local authority revenue funding per pupil

£

	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Bath and North East Somerset	4,240	4,370	4,430	4,570
Bedfordshire	4,210	4,350	4,410	—
Bedford Borough	—	—	—	4,680
Central Bedfordshire	—	—	—	4,470
Bexley	4,510	4,670	4,720	4,820
Birmingham	5,000	5,180	5,240	5,370
Blackburn with Darwen	4,860	5,020	5,040	5,180
Blackpool	4,430	4,590	4,620	4,760
Bolton	4,410	4,590	4,600	4,710
Bournemouth	4,150	4,290	4,300	4,450
Bracknell Forest	4,310	4,470	4,500	4,650
Bradford	4,640	4,830	4,870	5,010
Brent	5,350	5,590	5,700	5,830
Brighton and Hove	4,480	4,640	4,660	4,780
Bristol, City of	4,890	5,050	5,050	5,130
Bromley	4,350	4,510	4,590	4,730
Buckinghamshire	4,310	4,450	4,510	4,640
Bury	4,240	4,390	4,430	4,560
Calderdale	4,380	4,530	4,570	4,700
Cambridgeshire	4,080	4,210	4,280	4,410
Camden	6,700	6,900	6,910	7,070
Cheshire	4,200	4,350	4,430	—
Cheshire East	—	—	—	4,450
Cheshire West and Chester	—	—	—	4,660
Cornwall	4,120	4,280	4,340	4,500
Coventry	4,620	4,790	4,790	4,920
Croydon	4,660	4,860	4,910	5,050
Cumbria	4,290	4,430	4,430	4,570
Darlington	4,360	4,540	4,550	4,680
Derby	4,440	4,610	4,660	4,790
Derbyshire	4,170	4,320	4,450	4,590
Devon	4,070	4,220	4,280	4,400
Doncaster	4,450	4,600	4,630	4,750
Dorset	4,160	4,310	4,350	4,480
Dudley	4,290	4,460	4,510	4,640
Durham	4,480	4,640	4,730	4,900
Ealing	5,350	5,540	5,620	5,790
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,060	4,210	4,270	4,410
East Sussex	4,330	4,530	4,560	4,700
Enfield	4,910	5,080	5,100	5,210
Essex	4,250	4,400	4,450	4,560
Gateshead	4,570	4,720	4,740	4,880
Gloucestershire	4,110	4,260	4,370	4,480
Greenwich	5,930	6,130	6,260	6,430
Hackney	6,920	7,070	7,250	7,470
Halton	4,780	4,960	4,960	5,070
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,330	6,550	6,490	6,630
Hampshire	4,070	4,220	4,320	4,430
Haringey	5,640	5,850	5,940	6,020
Harrow	4,800	4,970	5,170	5,200
Hartlepool	4,600	4,780	4,830	4,910
Havering	4,460	4,600	4,670	4,800
Herefordshire	4,100	4,270	4,320	4,450
Hertfordshire	4,250	4,400	4,500	4,620
Hillingdon	4,800	4,940	4,990	5,120
Hounslow	5,180	5,340	5,380	5,490
Isle of Wight	4,520	4,680	4,660	4,810
Islington	6,430	6,710	6,660	6,810
Kensington and Chelsea	6,490	6,610	6,530	6,700
Kent	4,310	4,460	4,520	4,650
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	4,650	4,820	4,870	5,020
Kingston upon Thames	4,670	4,790	4,850	4,960
Kirklees	4,380	4,550	4,650	4,800
Knowsley	4,800	5,040	5,080	5,310
Lambeth	6,400	6,620	6,780	7,020
Lancashire	4,320	4,480	4,520	4,660
Leeds	4,410	4,560	4,610	4,730
Leicester	4,660	4,870	4,860	5,040
Leicestershire	3,920	4,050	4,150	4,270
Lewisham	6,140	6,310	6,330	6,480
Lincolnshire	4,230	4,380	4,410	4,530
Liverpool	4,880	5,080	5,140	5,340
Luton	4,740	4,920	4,960	5,120
Manchester	5,150	5,410	5,430	5,570
Medway	4,420	4,560	4,600	4,710
Merton	4,820	4,970	5,010	5,130
Middlesbrough	4,850	5,040	4,960	5,150
Milton Keynes	4,480	4,630	4,710	4,850
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,620	4,800	4,840	4,950
Newham	5,650	5,870	5,970	6,140
Norfolk	4,210	4,360	4,410	4,540
North East Lincolnshire	4,560	4,780	4,850	5,050
North Lincolnshire	4,240	4,390	4,420	4,540
North Somerset	4,120	4,260	4,310	4,450
North Tyneside	4,360	4,490	4,520	4,660
North Yorkshire	4,230	4,370	4,440	4,580
Northamptonshire	4,130	4,280	4,360	4,460
Northumberland	4,230	4,380	4,400	4,510
Nottingham	5,110	5,330	5,330	5,430
Nottinghamshire	4,150	4,330	4,390	4,500
Oldham	4,610	4,790	4,820	4,970
Oxfordshire	4,220	4,370	4,410	4,520
Peterborough	4,550	4,700	4,790	4,920
Plymouth	4,350	4,510	4,540	4,670
Poole	4,090	4,230	4,250	4,370
Portsmouth	4,430	4,600	4,650	4,800
Reading	4,720	4,920	4,870	5,030
Redbridge	4,580	4,770	4,820	4,960
Redcar and Cleveland	4,510	4,670	4,750	4,930
Richmond upon Thames	4,560	4,690	4,750	4,880
Rochdale	4,680	4,860	4,900	5,050
Rotherham	4,530	4,700	4,730	4,860
Rutland	4,310	4,440	4,400	4,530
Salford	4,860	5,060	5,050	5,220
Sandwell	4,710	4,900	4,890	4,980
Sefton	4,420	4,570	4,590	4,740
Sheffield	4,390	4,570	4,650	4,780
Shropshire	4,070	4,220	4,240	4,370

Local authority revenue funding per pupil

£

	2006—07	2007—08	2008—09	2009—10
Slough	4,900	5,070	5,130	5,270
Solihull	4,100	4,210	4,270	4,420
Somerset	4,080	4,230	4,350	4,480
South Gloucestershire	3,970	4,110	4,150	4,230
South Tyneside	4,640	4,820	4,910	5,090
Southampton	4,530	4,700	4,750	4,850
Southend-on-Sea	4,460	4,590	4,640	4,800
Southwark	6,440	6,640	6,650	6,770
St Helens	4,440	4,630	4,640	4,810
Staffordshire	4,080	4,230	4,290	4,420
Stockport	4,180	4,320	4,410	4,560
Stockton-on-Tees	4,470	4,640	4,620	4,760
Stoke-on-Trent	4,620	4,770	4,800	4,930
Suffolk	4,100	4,260	4,320	4,470
Sunderland	4,470	4,630	4,680	4,820
Surrey	4,240	4,370	4,450	4,580
Sutton	4,590	4,740	4,810	4,950
Swindon	4,110	4,250	4,310	4,430
Tameside	4,360	4,520	4,560	4,660
Telford and Wrekin	4,300	4,510	4,510	4,650
Thurrock	4,500	4,670	4,700	4,860
Torbay	4,280	4,440	4,460	4,580
Tower Hamlets	7,020	7,280	7,350	7,540
Trafford	4,200	4,340	4,410	4,560
Wakefield	4,350	4,510	4,550	4,630
Walsall	4,510	4,690	4,700	4,810
Waltham Forest	5,180	5,340	5,330	5,490
Wandsworth	5,650	5,880	5,980	6,190
Warrington	4,090	4,250	4,320	4,450
Warwickshire	4,130	4,270	4,320	4,450
West Berkshire	4,390	4,530	4,570	4,700
West Sussex	4,170	4,310	4,370	4,470
Westminster	6,040	6,310	6,260	6,370
Wigan	4,300	4,470	4,510	4,640
Wiltshire	4,060	4,200	4,250	4,390
Windsor and Maidenhead	4,420	4,580	4,630	4,770
Wirral	4,420	4,610	4,630	4,770
Wokingham	4,160	4,320	4,360	4,520
Wolverhampton	4,670	4,860	4,940	5,100
Worcestershire	4,080	4,210	4,300	4,430
York	4,120	4,260	4,360	4,500

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real term figures using 31 March 2010 GDP Deflators at 2008-09 prices.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Rounding: Per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Figures exclude Isles of Scilly and City of London.
6. From 2009-10 due to Local Government re-organisation, Bedfordshire split to become Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire and Cheshire became Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the per pupil funding was for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary pupils in England in each of the last five years. [4864]

Mr Gibb: Since 2006-07, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been the main source of school funding. As the DSG is distributed through a single guaranteed unit of funding per pupil and is distributed from central Government to local government, a primary/secondary split on a central to local government basis is not available.

Average per pupil unit of funding figures for 2005-06 to 2009-10 for England are provided in the table. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms:

Revenue funding per pupil

	England average
2005-06 (baseline)	4,340
2006-07	4,480
2007-08	4,640
2008-09	4,690
2009-10	4,830

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: real term figures using 31 March 2010 GDP Deflators at 2008-09 prices.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Rounding: per pupil figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Schools: Management

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether free schools would be required to give priority in admissions to *(a)* children with special educational needs and *(b)* looked-after children under his proposals for such schools. [4535]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* Free schools will be bound by the same school admissions code that governs all publicly funded schools. This requires that the highest priority for admission is given to looked-after children. They are also required by the code to ensure their arrangements do not 'unfairly disadvantage a child with a disability or special educational needs'.

Local authorities will also be able name free schools in statements of special educational needs (SEN), in the same way as they are currently able to do for academies.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether a free school would be required to admit a pupil with a statement of special educational needs if the school is named in such a statement under his proposals for such schools. [4537]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 June 2010]:* A free school will be required to admit a pupil with a statement of special educational needs if the school is named in a statement. Free schools, like academies, are bound by the same school admissions code that governs all publicly funded schools.

Schools: Transport

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of 16 to 19 year-olds in *(a)* full-time education and *(b)* unwaged training are eligible for (i) free and (ii) subsidised transport between their home and their place of education. [4021]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not available centrally as it is for local authorities and Passenger Transport Executives to determine locally what arrangements and support might be made available to young people in their area.

Sixth Form Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities have no secondary schools with sixth forms. [4022]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities which have no secondary schools with sixth forms are as follows:

Bury

City of London

Isles of Scilly

Middlesbrough

Portsmouth

Richmond Upon Thames

Rutland

Stockport.

Source:

EduBase 2

Special Educational Needs

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many applications for statements on special educational need have been made in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [5708]

Sarah Teather: Parents and schools can ask local authorities to carry out statutory assessments of children's special educational needs (SEN) with a view to the children being given statements. Information on these requests is not collected centrally. Information on the number of children whose assessments resulted in statements each year is published in Tables 2 and 3A of the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2010". This can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to allocate funding for children with additional educational needs to schools from 2010-11. [4158]

Mr Gibb: School funding for 2010-11 was the final year of a three year settlement agreed under the previous Government, and we have already stated we will not make changes to allocations that have already been made for 2010-11. Beyond 2010-11, this Government are committed to changes to the funding system through the introduction of a pupil premium for disadvantaged children. We will bring forward our proposals in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Regulation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which regulations affecting farming she has abolished since her appointment. [4715]

Mr Paice: I have not abolished any regulations relating to farming since I came to office. However, the Government are committed to bear down on the costs and number of regulations and I intend to review all planned and existing regulations. As part of that commitment the Task Force on Farming Regulations, to be chaired by Richard Macdonald, is being formed to identify ways to reduce the regulatory burden through a review of relevant regulations and their implementation. It will advise on how to achieve a risk-based system of regulation in the future and is due to produce its initial views in early 2011.

All new regulations, including those affecting farming, will also be challenged by a new Reducing Regulation Committee.

Mr Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to reduce the administrative burden placed upon farmers by regulations on nitrate vulnerable zones. [4802]

Mr Paice: The Nitrates Directive requires each member state to review its Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) designation and Nitrates Action Programme every four years.

DEFRA will be working closely with the farming industry, other interested parties and the European Commission over the next two years to consider the ways in which the Nitrates Action Programme could be amended, with a view to implementing any changes from January 2013.

In addition, the Task Force on Farming Regulations, to be chaired by Richard Macdonald, is being formed to identify ways to reduce regulatory burden through a review of relevant regulations and their implementation. It will advise on how to achieve a risk-based system of regulation in the future and produce its initial views in early 2011.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many individuals have been paid £200,000 or more under the single payment scheme in 2009; and how much was paid to each such recipient under that scheme. [4927]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 30 June 2010]*: The overall Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payments made to individuals who received £200,000 or more in 2009 and total amounts are reflected in the following table. The details for each recipient will be placed in the House Library.

	Individuals	*Total amount paid (£)*
2009	502	158,891,590.03

This reflects the 2009 claim payments made to date. Payments made to individuals in Euro have been converted to Sterling at 0.9093, the SPS 2009 scheme rate. The Rural Payments Agency continues to work on a small number of applications that are not yet validated for full payment.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what administration costs were incurred in respect of processing claims made under the single payment scheme in each of the last five years. [4930]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 30 June 2010]:* The Rural Payments Agency uses a new model developed by PricewaterhouseCoopers for calculating administration costs in respect of processing claims made under the single payments scheme. The earliest available data using this model is from the year 2007-08.

The 2005-06 and 2006-07 costs were calculated using previous methodology, and as such the costs for each of the last five years are not directly comparable.

Costs are as follows:

	£
2005-06	[1]750
2006-07	713
2007-08	1,317
2008-09	1,286
2009-10	[2]1,043

[1] The DEFRA review of RPA conducted by David Hunter reported in March 2007 an average of £750 per claim processed for the 2005 scheme.

[2] Provisional until 2009-10 accounts are audited

Bees

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effect of neo-nicotinoids on bees. [5652]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* The UK pesticides regulatory body (the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD)) has liaised with other EU regulatory authorities that have imposed restrictions on the use of these pesticides. It also reviews developments on how risks to bee health from the use of pesticides are assessed and monitored. CRD scientists attended the 10th International Symposium of the International Commission for Plant-Bee Relationships (ICPBR) on Hazards of Pesticides to Bees, in October 2008; no new scientific evidence was presented at this meeting, or more recently, to suggest a need for action on current UK pesticide authorisations.

CRD would act on any substantive evidence should incidents occur in the UK and will continue to monitor research and developments in other EU member states and elsewhere to see if they are relevant to the UK.

Biosafety Protocol

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what position the EU plans to take at the Meeting of the Parties to the Caragena Protocol on Biosafety in October 2010. [4626]

Mr Paice: A set of conclusions were adopted by the Environment Council on 11 June to confirm the EU's overall priorities for the Cartagena Protocol meeting in October. The conclusions are published on the Council website at:

www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/115093.pdf

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to page 18 of the Coalition Agreement, what estimate she has made of the cost of conducting the science-led policy of badger control measures in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine tuberculosis. [5774]

Mr Paice: The coalition has committed that, as part of a package of measures, we will introduce a carefully managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine TB.

We need to consider all the issues carefully, including the scientific evidence, to work out the detail of the package to ensure we get it right. We will be looking at vaccine and culling options as part of that package.

We will set out our proposals in due course, including the estimated costs.

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what percentage of bovine tuberculosis tests produced false positive results in *(a)* each of the last 10 years and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available; [6020]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to implement the recommendation made in the 2006 report on the review of tuberculosis testing procedures that tuberculosis testing audit and assurance procedures should be enhanced; [6021]

(3) what percentage of cattle slaughtered following positive bovine tuberculosis tests are found to be free of tuberculosis when tested after slaughter; [6022]

(4) how many cattle herds were tested for bovine tuberculosis in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and in what percentage of those herds at least one cow tested positive. [6023]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* An effective TB testing audit process has already been drawn up and used to audit Animal Health staff engaged in TB testing. Consideration is currently being given as to how best to extend the audit process to all TB testers on an ongoing basis.

The tuberculin skin test has a specificity of 99.9%, which means that when applied to cattle without TB in Great Britain, there is a one in 1,000 chance that a non-infected animal will be wrongly classified as a reactor. The probability of false positives is therefore 0.1%.

A failure to detect lesions of TB through post-mortem inspections or to culture M:bovis (the causative organism of the disease) in the laboratory does not imply that a test reactor was not infected with bovine TB. In the early stages of the disease it is not always possible to observe lesions during post-mortem examination and, due to the fastidious nature of this organism it is very difficult to isolate it from tissue samples without lesions.

The primary purpose of post mortem inspections and culture is not to establish the presence or absence of disease, but rather to identify the severity and strain of infection. It is therefore not possible to say what percentage of cattle slaughtered following positive bovine tuberculosis tests are found to be free of tuberculosis when tested after slaughter.

During the last 12 months 42,262 cattle herds that were not under movement restrictions were tested for bovine Tuberculosis in England. Of these herds 7.9% had at least one animal test positive.

Notes:

Data from Vetnet is produced three months in arrears and the latest report available is for March 2010. Therefore data cannot be provided for the last three months.

Data from Vetnet is provisional and subject to change as more data becomes available.

Source:

Vetnet—Animal Health Database

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many lay vaccinators the Food and Environment Research Agency has trained for the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project. [6398]

Mr Paice: The Food and Environment Research Agency has not yet trained lay vaccinators as part of the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project. Training is due to commence this summer.

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget and how many staff the Food and Environment Research Agency *(a)* had in 2009-10 and *(b)* has for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12 to train lay vaccinators for the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project. [6399]

Mr Paice: No training for lay vaccinators was carried out in 2009-10.

Training will draw on a pool of 15 Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) staff, all of whom will be accredited as trainers. All of these staff will also be working on a range of other Fera projects.

Practical training of lay vaccinators will take place alongside the trapping and vaccinating of badgers in the Stroud area. The total budget for this work in 2010-11 is£614,000 and in 2011-12 is £418,000.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6431]

Richard Benyon: The Department has spent £176.25 on official photographs of the new ministerial team since their appointment on 11 May 2010.

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to relocate officials working in her Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6561]

Richard Benyon: We have no specific relocation plans within the Department although we are always looking to maximise the most efficient use of our estate. We will bear Bassetlaw in mind in any such decisions.

Dogs

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to promote responsible dog ownership; and if she will make a statement. [5491]

Mr Paice: On 1 June a wide ranging public consultation on changes to the dangerous dog laws and the promotion of responsible dog ownership closed. Options presented in the consultation included the introduction of dog control notices and compulsory microchipping, among others. The consultation received 4,250 responses which will need to be analysed before any action relating to dangerous dog legislation is considered.

EU Grants and Loans: Northern Ireland

Ian Paisley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to Question 978, what the outcome was of the discussions with *(a)* the UK Permanent Representative and *(b)* the European Commission on (i) disallowance and (ii) the £60 million financial correction levied on the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland. [4306]

Mr Paice: The European Commission has confirmed financial corrections in respect of the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Northern Ireland of £13,123,106.40 and €18,600,258.71. These sums mostly relate to payments made by DARD and funded by the Commission during EU financial years 2005-07 (i.e. 16 October 2004 to 15 October 2007) that concerned the Extensification Premium Scheme (Scheme Year 2004) and the Single Payment Scheme (Scheme Years 2005 and 2006). The UK formally recorded its continued concerns with the Commission that these financial corrections are wholly disproportionate to any actual risk to the Fund and that the Northern Ireland Authorities are therefore actively considering referring the case to the European Court of Justice. Discussions with the Commission on proposed financial corrections covering later financial years remain ongoing.

Flood Control

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many homes the Environment Agency plans to improve flood protection in 2010-11. [6400]

Richard Benyon: In 2010-11, the Environment Agency plans to improve flood protection for 79,000 households in England.

Oak Processionary Moth

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to eradicate the oak processionary moth. [6004]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission has put in place an emergency programme to deal with this pest and is working with officials from the affected London boroughs, the Food and Environment Research Agency, the Health Protection Agency and others to try to prevent its spread and to eradicate it.

A team of dedicated surveyors carries out inspections of sites where oak trees are present. Where the pest is found, owners are required either to have affected trees sprayed with insecticide to kill off the moth's larvae, or to have nests removed and destroyed before a new generation of adults emerges to breed.

The moth is thought to have been introduced into the area on infected oak trees used for landscaping work. Temporary import restrictions have therefore been put in place and a request has been made to have the pest listed in the EU plant health directive so that these restrictions may be made permanent.

Rural Payments Agency

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on what dates she has met the chief executive of the Rural Payments Agency since her appointment; and what issues were discussed at each such meeting; [5012]

(2) on what date she expects completion of the work on the Rural Payments Agency's computer system; and what her most recent estimate is of the costs of completing such work; [5013]

(3) what discussions she has had with the chief executive of the Rural Payments Agency on the completion of single payment *(a)* part-payments for 2008 and *(b)* part and full payments for 2009; what steps the Agency is taking to ensure such payments are made promptly; and if she will make a statement. [5014]

Mr Paice: An independent review of the Rural Payments Agency, commissioned by DEFRA, concluded recently. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I are studying the recommendations, which cover IT as well as a range of other issues, and will publish them shortly along with the Government's response to the review. In the meantime, the agency is taking all steps possible to make either full or part payments in respect of outstanding single payment scheme claims. I intend to meet the RPA to discuss the handling of payments in considerable detail.

Rural Payments Agency: Standards

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the performance of the Rural Payments Agency. [5262]

Mr Paice: An independent Review of the Rural Payments Agency, commissioned by DEFRA, concluded recently. The Government will publish the recommendations of the Review and our response to it shortly.

Tunnel Tech

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what medical experts have been asked to give evidence in the mushroom composting investigation into Tunneltech initiated by her Department through the Health Protection Agency and the local primary care trust. [6627]

Mr Paice: The following medical experts were involved in the preparation of the report referred to in the oral question from the hon. Member on 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 415, the Director of Public Health for Bassetlaw and Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust; consultants in public health at the Primary Care Trust; consultants in health protection at the Health Protection Agency; the Health Protection Agency's Composting Working Group; and at least three general practitioner practices in the area around the Tunneltech plant.

HOME DEPARTMENT

ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service and National Wildlife Crime Unit

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future funding of *(a)* the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service and (b) the National Wildlife Crime Unit. [5497]

James Brokenshire: As the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his emergency Budget on 22 June, the Government are currently conducting a spending review. The review, to be published on 20 October, will set final departmental settlements. I will make decisions about future funding of individual areas of Home Office business in light of the outcome of the spending review.

Alcoholic Drinks: Retail Trade

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of cases where proceedings have been completed, which five retailers were prosecuted the most times for offences involving the illegal sale of alcohol in 2009; and how many prosecutions were brought against each. [6620]

James Brokenshire: Statistics for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there were for the offence of selling alcohol to juveniles in 2009; and how many of those convicted had their alcohol licence revoked. [6621]

James Brokenshire: Statistics for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

Asylum: Legal Aid and Assistance

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will postpone decisions on applications for asylum in all cases where the applicants were receiving legal aid and assistance from Refugee and Migrant Justice until arrangements have been made for alternative legal aid and assistance to be provided to them; and if she will make a statement. [5086]

Damian Green: While the UK Border Agency will take every care to ensure that former Refugee and Migrant Justice clients are not unreasonably affected and will treat individual cases sensitively, we are unable to give a blanket assurance that no adverse immigration decisions will be taken on their former clients until a new legal representative has been appointed.

British Nationality: War Crimes

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire of 24 March 2010, *Official Report,* columns 351-52W, on the UK Border Agency's War Crimes Unit, how many people were refused citizenship, denied leave to enter/remain, or excluded from the Refugee convention in each year since 2004. [4827]

Damian Green: The UKBA does not collate statistics on the outcomes of all recommendations made by its specialist research team. Decisions to exclude someone from refugee protection under article 1F (a) of the Refugee Convention have been recorded separately since October 2007. As at the end of May 2010, UKBA has recorded that 31 decisions to exclude have been implemented. This figure is not provided under National Statistics protocols. It is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions visa bans have been used to prevent people from each country of origin considered to be involved in corruption from travelling to the UK in each of the last five years. [5608]

Damian Green: In the last five years, a total of seven people have been excluded from the UK by the Secretary of State because of involvement in corruption (six in 2007 and one in 2008). Six of the individuals were Kenyan and one was Zimbabwean. Any application for entry clearance or leave to enter from a person who has been excluded from the UK by the Secretary of State will be refused under Paragraph 320(6) of the Immigration Rules.

This information is based on management information and as such has not been quality assured. It is provisional and subject to change.

Crime

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the annual cost to the public purse of crime. [6085]

James Brokenshire: The information required to answer this question is not collected routinely. The latest Home Office estimates of the costs of crime were published in Home Office Online Report 30/05. They relate to crimes committed against individuals and households in the year 2003-04, and are broken down into a range of cost categories, some of which cover public sector expenditure or the use of public sector resources. Table 4.1 of Home Office Online Report 30/05 indicates that crime committed against individuals and households in 2003-04 was estimated to have resulted in criminal justice system costs of £7,096 million and health service costs of £2,356 million. It was also estimated to have cost £4,253 million in lost output due to time off work, and some of this is likely to have been borne by the public sector. Financial transfers are not included in these estimates, so they do not include compensation paid to victims of crime through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. Costs to the public purse due to crime committed against businesses and the public sector itself, as well as a result of anti-social behaviour, are also not included in these estimates.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on activities to promote equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people her Department employs for that purpose. [5529]

Lynne Featherstone: The Department has statutory responsibilities set out in equality legislation, both as an employer and provider of services.

In discharging these responsibilities, the Home Department under the last Government spent the following:

2007-08: £1,725,000, of which £837,000 were staff costs.

2008-09: £1,683,000, of which £1,071,000 were staff costs.

2009-10: £1,518,000, of which £1,026,000 were staff costs.

The number of people employed specifically on equality and diversity is 20.

DNA Databases

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records on the national DNA database she expects to be destroyed in the next 12 months. [6032]

James Brokenshire: At present, a DNA profile will be retained indefinitely unless the relevant Chief Officer of Police as data owner decides to authorise its deletion from the National DNA Database.

The Government are committed to a policy on retention of DNA profiles that provides the protections of the Scottish model, under which the profiles from those arrested but not convicted are only retained in serious cases and for a limited period. We will bring forward shortly detailed proposals for legislative change to give effect to our policy.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on a link between competence in the English language and the likelihood of overstaying following the issue of a student visa. [6235]

Damian Green: The Government will be reviewing the non-economic immigration routes with a view to bringing forward proposals in due course, and this will include detailed consideration of the student routes. The UK Border Agency has analysed information on levels of abuse based on nationality, and on students not enrolling on courses or discontinuing study as part of tier four review undertaken earlier this year. As tier four of the points-based system was only launched just over a year ago, on 31 March 2009, many of the visas issued under the new student route have not yet expired and consequently no specific research has yet been commissioned or evaluated on the links between overstaying and competence in the English language.

I have asked for a thorough evaluation of the student system to be undertaken in the coming months. The aim of that work will be to ensure that the right balance is struck between providing a user-friendly route for bona fide students and education providers and keeping out those who would seek to abuse the student system.

Foreign Workers

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many work permits have been issued to non-EU workers in each occupation in each year since 1997; [5289]

(2) how many work permit intracompany transfers were granted in respect of workers of each *(a)* nationality and *(b)* occupation for each year since 1997; [5301]

(3) how many intracompany transfer work permits were granted to each of the three companies with the largest number of such grants in the last year for which figures are available. [5302]

Damian Green: The number of work permit intra company transfers granted to each of the three companies with the largest number of grants in 2008, which is the last year for which figures are available, are: 4,470; 3,065; and 2,3[illegible]. The other information requested is detailed in Annexes A, B, and C:

Annex A: Number of work permits issued to non-EU workers in each occupation in each year since 1997.

Annex B: Number of work permit intra company transfers granted by nationality in each year since 1997.

Annex C: Number of work permit intra company transfers granted by occupation in each year since 1997.

These Annexes have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Immigration: Applications

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process applications for *(a)* post-study work visas, *(b)* indefinite leave to remain based on long-term residency, *(c)* certificate of approval for marriage and *(d)* leave to remain was in the latest period for which figures are available. [5479]

Damian Green: The average processing times are as follows:

1. Post-study work visas:

Financial year 2009-10: 37 calendar days

April 2010 to May 2010: 23 calendar days

2. Indefinite leave to remain based on long-term residency:

Financial year 2009-10: 465 calendar days

April 2010 to May 2010: 240 calendar days

3. Certificate of approval:

Financial Year 2009-10: 86 calendar days

April 2010 to May 2010: 99 calendar days

4. Leave to remain (LTR):

LTR cases by category in calendar days

	Financial year 2009-10	*April 2010 to May 2010*
Employment	37	30
Family Route	191	100
Protection	403	252
Study	78	68
Visiting the UK	121	83
Total LTR	86	64

Notes:

1. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.
2. All data extracts measure applications despatched between two dates.
3. Average Processing Time calculated from application raised date and date despatched.
4. Post-study work visas defined by the following case types: Tier one (T1) Highly Skilled (HS)—UK Graduate Worker (Post Study)—Extension, T1 HS—Post Study—International (Int.), T1 HS—(Revised) Post Study—Int.
5. Indefinite leave to remain (based on long-term residency) defined by the following two case types: Long Residency (10 Year)—ILR, Long Residency (14 Year)—ILR.
6. Certificate of Approval defined by the following case types: Certificate of Approval (Civil Partnership), Certificate of Approval (Marriage).

Passports: Intelligence Services

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that British passports are not used by foreign intelligence services. [6026]

Damian Green: The UK passport is one of the most secure documents of its kind, fully meeting rigorous international standards. This security is delivered through a combination of physical and electronic security features. Since 2006 individuals have been biometrically linked to their passports through their photograph contained in an electronic chip embedded in the document. The chip cannot be altered without Border Control officers becoming aware that the passport has been tampered with. UK passports also have a range of physical security measures designed to prevent forgery and tampering. A new design of UK passport will be issued from 5 October 2010. It will contain new security printing features to combat fraud.

The Identity and Passport Service also has a range of measures in place to detect and deter passport fraud which led to the IPS preventing around 17,000 fraudulent applications in the last two years. These include:

checking biographical information to ensure that the identity claimed on the application form is real, living, and can be linked to the customer through checks against a range of public and private sector databases;

the development of facial recognition systems to check applicant images against a database of images of suspected fraudsters;

checking applicants against increasingly sophisticated internal watch files including databases of infant deaths and passports reported lost or stolen;

strengthening its business processes for identity authentication, and training and support for passport examiners and specialist fraud units; and

interviews for all first-time adult customers.

These measures are continuously assessed and attempted frauds and forgeries analysed to ensure security is maintained and to identify opportunities for further strengthening of the passport and passport issuing processes.

Police: Manpower

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* police officers there were in each police authority area on 1 July 2010. [6372]

Nick Herbert: Figures on numbers of police community support officers and police officers for each police force area are collected by the Home Office twice a year, covering 30 March and 30 September.

The most recently published figures relate to 30 September 2009, and were published in the Home Office statistical bulletin 'Police Service Strength England and Wales 30 September 2009'—available on-line at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosbo0310.pdf

Figures for 30 March 2010 will be published on 22 July.

Police: Retirement

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* average early retirement costs for a police officer whose services are no longer required; [6369]

(2) what estimate she has made of the average early retirement cost in respect of a police officer with *(a)* 20, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* five or fewer years of service whose service is no longer required. [6373]

Nick Herbert: No such estimates have been made. There is no provision in the police pension schemes for early retirement of a police officer whose services are no longer required. There is separate provision for the early retirement of chief officers in certain circumstances, which is detailed in Police Negotiating Board Joint Circular five of 2004 as amended by Circular three of 2010.

Yvonne Fletcher

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the matter of assistance for the Metropolitan police to gain access to Libya for the purposes of its investigation into the murder of PC Yvonne Fletcher. [5955]

Nick Herbert: The murder of WPC Fletcher was a terrible crime and her family deserve to know the truth. The investigation into her murder is continuing and remains an operational matter for the police. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in regular contact with the Metropolitan Police Service and continues to press the Libyan Government to allow them to return. On 31 May, the Foreign Secretary raised the WPC Fletcher case with the Libyan Foreign Minister, Musa Kusa.

TREASURY

Budget June 2010

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish *(a)* the slides in his Department's presentation on its assumptions of the effects of the measures in the 2010 Budget and *(b)* the analysis supporting the presentation. [5944]

Mr Gauke: The Government published the impact of measures in the 2010 Budget in the Budget document

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_easyread.htm

and the Office for Budget Responsibility has published the Budget forecast and supporting assumptions.

Capital Gains Tax

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what economic modelling his Department undertook to determine the proposed level at which *(a)* capital gains tax, *(b)* entrepreneurs' relief and *(c)* the annual exempt amount would be set; [6325]

(2) what *(a)* research and *(b)* impact assessments he undertook in deciding on his proposal for capital gains tax in the June 2010 Budget; [6384]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the revenue which would accrue to the Exchequer from capital gains tax if the income tax rate for those with an income above the higher rate threshold were *(a)* 18, *(b)* 19, *(c)* 20, *(d)* 25, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 35 and *(g)* 40 per cent. [6478]

Mr Gauke: The policy costings document published alongside the 2010 Emergency Budget Book sets out the methodology for arriving at such estimates and the likely effects on revenue:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Impact assessments are not required for changes which only impact on individuals.

Child Benefit: Camden and Brent

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are in receipt of child benefit in *(a)* Hampstead and Kilburn constituency and *(b)* the London borough of (i) Camden and (ii) Brent. [6581]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2009". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

Child Trust Fund : Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow and *(b)* Tower Hamlets have received payments from the Child Trust Fund in each year since its inception. [6659]

Mr Hoban: Each Child Trust Fund account that is opened currently receives a payment of £250 from the Government with an additional payment of £250 being made in the case of children in lower income families. Statistics showing the level of Child Trust Fund opening in each parliamentary constituency and local authority area can be viewed on HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

Credit Unions

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to facilitate the use of EU funds to support credit unions in England. [5926]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* There are no general EU funds to support credit unions, although some regions of the UK are eligible for Structural Fund money and may make available part of such funds to credit unions. The Coalition Government has pledged to bring forward detailed proposals to foster diversity, promote mutuals and create a more competitive banking industry.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr Khalid Mahmood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 202W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier was of each BlackBerry issued to Ministers in his Department. [4004]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* Mobile phones and Blackberry devices issued for official use are provided under a pan-government framework. Blackberry handset costs are fixed at £125 when supplied as an upgrade or £235 for a new provision. According to central records all Treasury ministers were provided with new handsets as an upgrade on existing mobile accounts. All departmental mobile phone devices are provided by Vodafone and are supplied under the Teamwork/Teamwork and Blackberry tariff. The costs provided are excluding VAT.

Treasury Blackberrys are configured in line with government security standards to enable them to be used for secure email communication.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to implement in full the recommendations of the Parliamentary Ombudsman on Equitable Life, with particular reference to the recommendations on the amount of compensation. [6130]

Mr Hoban: We have committed to implement the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman's recommendation to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policyholders, through an independent payment scheme, for their relative loss as a consequence of regulatory failure. The Parliamentary Ombudsman did not make any recommendations on the amount of compensation, but noted that:

> "it would be appropriate to consider the potential impact on the public purse"

of any payment.

EU Budget

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net contribution has been of the UK to the EU for *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008; and what he expects that contribution to be in (i) 2009, (ii) 2010 and (iii) 2011. [6129]

Justine Greening: Table 2.9 of the supplementary material to the emergency Budget 2010, available at

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_complete.pdf

provides the latest projections for the UK's net contribution to the EU budget for the fiscal years 2008-09 (outturn) to 2015-16 (forecasts). The following table contains historical figures not covered in table 2.9.

	2005-06	*2006-08*	*2007-08*
Net payments to EU institutions	3.7	2.9	3.5
Net contribution to EU budget	4.4	3.5	4.2

Notes.

1. The "Net contribution to EU Budget" is the GNI, VAT and TOR contributions (gross contribution) less abatement less receipts.

2. The "Net payments to EU institutions" is equivalent to the net contribution to EU budget less that part of the UK's contribution to the EC budget that is attributed to the external aid programme (DFID/FCO DEL).

The Government are concerned about the UK's increasing contributions to the EU budget. The EU budget for the period 2007-13 was agreed by the previous Government in 2005, meaning the UK's contributions cannot easily be reduced. But at a time of painful fiscal consolidation across many EU member states, it is only fair that the EU budget play its part. As the Chancellor told a recent meeting of EU Finance Ministers, a freeze in EU spending should be considered. And looking ahead to the negotiation of the EU budget for the period 2014-20, the Government will strongly defend the UK's national interests, and ensure the EU budget is focused on those areas where the EU adds value.

EU Law: Fines

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on how many occasions the Government has been fined by the European Commission since the rules pertaining to fining states for non-implementation of EU regulations were instituted; and what *(a)* initial financial correction was set and *(b)* end financial correction was paid after negotiations and appeal in each case; [6299]

(2) on how many occasions the Government has been found in persistent breach of obligations under EU regulations since 2001; what fines were levied in each case; and if he will make a statement. [6300]

Justine Greening: The United Kingdom has never incurred a financial penalty under article 260 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union (or under the former article 228 (ex article 171) of the treaty establishing the European Community).

Pregnant Women: Grants

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Hemsworth constituency have received the health in pregnancy grant since its introduction. [6666]

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made in Lewisham East constituency in 2009-10. [6583]

Mr Gauke: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Public Expenditure

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of gross public expenditure in 2008-09 prices *(a)* spent in each year since 1990-91 and *(b)* planned in each year to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [6165]

Danny Alexander: Total Managed Expenditure (TME) in 2008-09 prices since 1990-91 was as follows:-

	Real TME (2008-09 prices) £billion
1990-91	370
1991-92	390
1992-93	408
1993-94	415
1994-95	427
1995-96	431
1996-97	422
1997-98	419
1998-99	422
1999-2000	429
2000-01	449
2001-02	470
2002-03	493
2003-04	518
2004-05	545
2005-06	569
2006-07	580
2007-08	597
2008-09	630
2009-10	657

Note:
The 2009-10 figure is the estimated outturn.

TME in 2008-09 prices planned to 2015-16 is as follows:

2010-11	664
2011-12	655
2012-13	650
2013-14	644
2014-15	640
2015-16	640

Public Expenditure: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposals in Budget 2010 on economic growth in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Bridgend County borough council area in each of the next five years. [6102]

Danny Alexander: The June 2010 Budget will promote economic growth in all countries and regions of the UK including Wales and Bridgend.

Public Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his policy of transparency on public spending applies to the review of capital expenditure approvals since 1 January 2010; and which projects are under review in each parliamentary constituency. [5210]

Danny Alexander: On 17 June I announced the outcome of a review of 217 projects that had been submitted to the Treasury for re-approval. These projects included both capital and resource expenditure. 12 projects were cancelled as they did not demonstrate value for money, were unaffordable or did not reflect the Government's priorities, and a further 12 projects were suspended as more detailed work is needed as part of the spending review process. As set out in the following lists, some of these decisions will affect specific constituencies while others relate to programmes that apply nationally:

1. List of projects cancelled

Project	*Constituency*
Stonehenge Visitor Centre[1]	Salisbury
Local Authority Leader Boards	National Programme
Sheffield Forgemasters International Limited	Sheffield South East
Rollout of the Future Jobs Fund[2]	National Programme
Six month offer recruitment subsidies	National Programme
Extension of Young Person's Guarantee to 2011-12	National Programme
Two-year Jobseeker's Guarantee	National Programme
Active Challenge Routes - Walk England	National Programme
County Sports Partnerships	National Programme
North Tees and Hartlepool hospital	Stockton North; Hartlepool
Local Authority Business Growth Initiative (LABGI)	National Programme
Outukumpu	Sheffield South East

2. List of projects suspended

Project	*Constituency*
Libraries Modernisation Programme	National Programme
Sheffield Retail Quarter	Sheffield Central
Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme	Gravesham and Dartford
University Enterprise Capital Fund	National Programme
Newton Scholarships	National Programme
Health Research Support Initiative	National Programme
Leeds Holt Park Well-being Centre	Leeds North West
Birmingham Magistrates Court	Birmingham Ladywood
Successor Deterrent Extension to Concept Phase Long Lead Items[3]	To be decided
Search and Rescue Helicopters—joint procurement between DFT and MOD	Manufactured in United States
A14 Road	Cambridge North West, South and South East; Huntingdon; Bedfordshire North East

[1] Government funding for this programme has been withdrawn. If non-government funding is identified approval to proceed could be given.

[2] Includes efficiency savings from tighter management of under performing Future Jobs Fund providers.

[3] Successor Deterrent Extension to Concept Phase Long Lead Items will be reviewed as part of the broader Trident value for money review, which will report in the coming weeks. Any necessary long lead items would subsequently be procured from various suppliers in the US and UK.

I also laid in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament a full list of projects that were not cancelled or suspended as part of this exercise:

http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2010/DEP2010-1327.doc

For these projects the Treasury does not hold a complete and detailed list by constituency.

Public Sector: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what savings he estimates will be made as a result of the two-year public sector pay freeze in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [5380]

Danny Alexander: This policy will save £3.3 billion a year by 2014-15. The freeze will also apply in health workforces, but savings will be recycled within the NHS.

Regional Growth Fund

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the 2010 Budget, what estimate he has made of the size of the regional growth fund to fund regional capital projects in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [5644]

Danny Alexander: The Deputy Prime Minister announced on 29 June 2010 that the regional growth fund for 2011-12 and 2012-13 would total £1 billion.

A White Paper setting out further details will published in the autumn.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to improve levels of accuracy in the processing of tax codes. [4616]

Mr Gauke: Following the issue of tax codes for 2010-11 in January 2010 HMRC identified several situations where, due to a mismatch between data held on HMRC's systems, and data supplied by employers and pensions providers individuals may have received an incorrect coding for 2010-11.

Before the start of the new tax year, HMRC worked to identify and review cases where incorrect coding notices could have been issued. They corrected where necessary the underlying records through a mix of automated repairs and clerical reviews. They ensured that no codes were issued to employers or pension providers until they had conducted these reviews in order to prevent incorrect codes leading to incorrect tax deductions.

HMRC completed reviewing the bulk of the cases in time for the start of 2010-11. Where no new code was issued employers continued to operate the code that applied in the old year which is a normal part of the PAYE process. HMRC continues to correct codes, where necessary, as part of its day to day work.

HMRC has provided advice on its website about these issues and continues to be in regular contact with employers, pension providers and their representative bodies to ensure they are kept properly informed.

Overall the introduction of the national insurance and pay as you earn service computer system (NPS) and work HMRC has conducted this year will ensure more accurate tax coding than ever before.

Saving Gateway

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the take-up rate was in the Savings Gateway pilots. [5743]

Mr Hoban: Two pilots of the Saving Gateway were conducted between 2002 and 2007. 1,500 accounts were opened in the first pilot, and 22,000 in the second. The reports on both pilots which detail their sampling approaches are available via the HM Treasury website archive.

The emergency Budget announced that the Saving Gateway will not be introduced in July 2010, given the need to reduce the UK's budget deficit.

Tax Allowances: Renewable Energy

David Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward proposals to offer tax reductions to house builders who integrate renewable energy into new developments. [5874]

Justine Greening: The feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme exists to incentivise investment in small-scale renewable energy, including renewable generation installed by developers. The Chancellor takes decisions regarding tax policy as part of the usual Budget process.

Tax Credit

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits have an annual income of over £30,000 in Lewisham East constituency; [6596]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits have an income of over £30,000 in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency; [6637]

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many households in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency with an annual income over £30,000 are in receipt of tax credits; [6579]

(2) how many households in the London borough of *(a)* Camden and *(b)* Brent in receipt of tax credits have an annual income over £30,000. [6580]

Mr Gauke: Analysis of the number of households with incomes over £30,000 in the a fore mentioned constituencies is shown in Table 1 as follow. This information is based on provisional information of families receiving tax credits as at April 2010.

Constituency/London borough	*Number of households with Income over £30,000*
Argyll and Bute	2,290
Ashfield	3,225
Brent	4,310
Brent East	1,040
Brent South	1,555
Camden	1,200
Hampstead and Highgate	515
Lewisham East	1,445
Na h-Eileanan an lar	780

Further details about the snapshot data used for this analysis can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Taxation: Banks

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the minutes of each meeting in his Department at which his proposed bank levy was discussed. [5942]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors he took into account in determining the level of his proposed bank levy. [5943]

Mr Hoban: The proposed rate reflects the risks posed by the banking sector to the financial system and wider economy, while taking account of current economic circumstances and the UK's competitive position.

VAT

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed increase in the standard rate of value added tax on *(a)* charities, *(b)* road fuel prices, *(c)* construction work for which value added tax is payable, *(d)* the retail industry, *(e)* low income pensioner households and *(f)* the prospects for the economic situation. [6323]

Mr Gauke: The Budget's VAT rate increase was driven by the need to address the deficit, which will benefit everyone. The effects of the rate change are set out in Budget 2010:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_complete.pdf

The associated impact assessment, which describes the compliance costs for business, was published alongside the Budget:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_impact_assessments.pdf

The impact of the VAT increase depends on expenditure, which varies considerably even among households of similar composition. It also needs to be considered in the context of the Budget as a whole. Annex A provides an analysis of the distributional impact of the Budget:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

In particular, paragraph C.58 sets out the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR) views on the incidence of VAT. Paragraph C.54 and Table C8 describe the OBR's view of the effect on GDP over time of Budget measures, including VAT. G.39 and C.64 describe the OBR's projections of tax receipts, including VAT.

VAT: NHS and Local Government

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost will be in each year from 2010-11 onwards for which information is available to *(a)* each NHS board and *(b)* each local authority of the decision to increase the rate of value added tax. [5905]

Mr Gauke: This information is not available.

Public bodies are funded inclusive of tax costs. There are schemes that allow local authorities to recover VAT in respect of their non business activities and NHS Trusts to recover VAT in respect of certain contracted out services. But the amount of VAT that such bodies do not recover is not routinely recorded.

Welfare Tax Credits

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Makerfield constituency in receipt of tax credits have an income of over £30,000. [6197]

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in Stretford and Urmston constituency have an income of over £30,000. [5846]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits have an income of over £30,000 in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. [6080]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency have an income of over £30,000. [6185]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency have an income of over £30,000. [6006]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits have an income of over £30,000 in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [5896]

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Kingston upon Hull North constituency in receipt of tax credits have an annual income over £30,000. [6520]

Mr Gauke: The number of households receiving tax credits with an income over £30,000 in the aforementioned constituencies are shown in Table 1 as follows:

Constituency	*Number of households with income over £30,000*
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	975
Eccles	2,455
Glasgow Maryhill	775
Kingston-upon-Hull North	1,815
Makerfield	2,920
Salisbury	3,220
Scarborough and Whitby	2,065
Slough	3,045
Stretford and Urmston	2,800
Sunderland South	2,010
Worsley	2,580

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

JUSTICE

Courts: Video Conferencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will extend the virtual courts pilot to Bradford magistrates court. [6329]

Mr Djanogly: There are no plans at present to extend the virtual courts pilot to Bradford magistrates court.

Virtual courts have been piloted in London, at Camberwell Green magistrates court and in Kent, at Medway magistrates court. The virtual court focussed on testing whether first hearings in the magistrates courts could be undertaken through the use of technology by connecting police stations to magistrates courts via video link. The pilot is currently being independently evaluated.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between his Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5552]

Mr Blunt: The Secretary of State, the Minister of State for Justice and the two Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State at the Ministry of Justice currently have use of an allocated ministerial car during the week. This may include journeys between the Department and the Palace of Westminster.

The Home Office provides the arrangements in relation to the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice, who also has ministerial responsibilities at the Ministry of Justice.

The new Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, contains changes that affect ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car. It states that

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed."

The Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency are working with Departments to effect the transition to the new arrangements.

The Ministerial Code is available on the Cabinet Office website.

Immigration: Asylum

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims for asylum for which legal aid has been granted and for whom the charity Refugee Migrant Justice has been retained as legal representation have been made but not yet completed. [6543]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission is working with the administrators of RMJ to establish how many active files they have but this information is not currently available. I will write to the hon. Member when the number is obtained.

Prison Accommodation

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of prison capacity in each of the next three years. [6601]

Mr Blunt: The Government believe that we need enough prison places for those whom the courts judge should receive a custodial sentence. The Core Capacity programme will increase capacity to 94,000 places by the end of 2012.

We are carrying out a full review of rehabilitation and sentencing and will explore ways of increasing private and voluntary sector involvement in the justice system. We are working on the details underlying those objectives, including economic analysis to look at various options.

Long-term decisions on prison capacity programmes will be taken in the light of these initiatives.

Prison Sentences: Reoffenders

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who had served a sentence of six months or less re-offended within 12 months of discharge in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [6105]

Mr Blunt: The available data on reoffending following a custodial sentence of six months or less is provided the following table—please note that this breakdown is based on custodial sentences awarded by the court.

Number and proportion of adult offenders reoffending after release from custody in the first quarter of 2006, 2007 and 2008 having been awarded a sentence of six months or less

	Number of offenders discharged from sentences of six months or less (January to March)	*Number of offenders reoffending within 12 months*	*Percentage of offenders reoffending within 12 months*
2006	7,533	4,722	62.7
2007	6,516	4,200	64.5
2008	8,410	5,493	65.3

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison service staff are working in *(a)* frontline delivery and *(b)* elsewhere in each establishment on the prison estate in England and Wales. [5661]

Mr Blunt: All staff working within Prison Service establishments deliver frontline services. Information on the number of directly employed staff within each establishment on 31 March 2010 is provided in the following table.

Full-time equivalent staff in post by establishment

Establishment	*FTE as at 31 March 2010*
Public Sector	
Acklington	448
Ashwell	267
Askham Grange	74
Aylesbury	288
Bedford	241
Belmarsh	891
Birmingham	735
Blantyre House	65
Blundeston	282
Brinsford	386
Bristol	330
Brixton	333
Buckley Hall	197
Bullingdon	464
Bullwood Hall	146
Bure	281
Canterbury	178
Cardiff	417
Castington	364
Channings Wood	334
Chelmsford	381
Coldingley	258
Cookham Wood	211
Dartmoor	310
Deerbolt	329
Dorchester	172
Dover	244
Downview	208
Drake Hall	173
Durham	542
East Sutton Park	58
Eastwood Park	259
Edmunds Hill	214
Erlestoke	230
Everthorpe	300
Exeter	288
Featherstone	353
Feltham	709
Ford	156
Foston Hall	283
Frankland	961
Full Sutton	735
Garth	481
Gartree	425
Glen Parva	444
Gloucester	203
Grendon	307
Guys Marsh	269
Haslar	96
Haverigg	312
Hewell	610
High Down	490
Highpoint	439
Hindley	418
Hollesley Bay	141
Holloway	476
Holme House	500
Hull	500
Huntercombe	272
Isis	56
Isle of Wight	858
Kennet	276
Kingston	124
Kirkham	224
Kirklevington Grange	129
Lancaster	162
Lancaster Farms	369
Latchmere House	79
Leeds	555
Leicester	226
Lewes	342
Leyhill	191
Lincoln	368
Lindholme	476
Littlehey	499
Liverpool	608
Long Lartin	683
Low Newton	278
Maidstone	280
Manchester	845
Moorland	479
Morton Hall	209
New Hall	366
North Sea Camp	133
Northallerton	128
Norwich	363
Nottingham	508
Onley	400
Pentonville	588
Portland	363
Preston	436
Ranby	517
Reading	177
Risley	476
Rochester	444
Send	173
Sheppey Cluster	1,224
Shepton Mallet	130
Shrewsbury	202
Stafford	378
Stocken	360
Stoke Heath	418
Styal	322
Sudbury	190

Full-time equivalent staff in post by establishment

Establishment	*FTE as at 31 March 2010*
Swansea	220
Swinfen Hall	364
The Mount	329
The Verne	248
Thorn Cross	186
Usk/Prescoed	162
Wakefield	715
Wandsworth	688
Warren Hill	226
Wayland	391
Wealstun	355
Wellingborough	292
Werrington	170
Wetherby	357
Whatton	428
Whitemoor	738
Winchester	339
Woodhill	734
Wormwood Scrubs	536
Wymott	510
Public sector total	45,079
Private Sector	
Altcourse	614
Ashfield	449
Bronzefield	389
Doncaster	549
Dovegate	544
Forest Bank	558
Lowdham Grange	436
Parc	604
Peterborough	562
Rye Hill	248
Wolds	217
Private sector total	5,170

Foreign Prisoners

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many non-UK nationals from *(a)* EU member states and *(b)* non-EU member states are detained in prison (i) on remand and (ii) serving sentences; [6198]

(2) how many non-UK nationals of each country of citizenship are in prison. [6202]

Mr Blunt: From the most recent available data, March 2010, there are 880 non-UK nationals from EU member states in prison on remand and a further 2,400 serving sentences. There were 1,500 non-EU nationals in prison on remand and a further 5,400 serving sentences.

These figures have been rounded—numbers from 1,000 to 99,999 are rounded to the nearest 100 and numbers from 10 to 999 are rounded to the nearest 10.

The number of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality is published quarterly in the population in custody bulletin, found under the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The following tables show the number of *(a)* non UK and *(b)* non EU nationals of each country in all prison establishments in England and Wales, from the most recent available data at the end of March 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex, England and Wales—31 March 2010

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
All nationalities	80,894	4,290	85,184
British nationals	67,655	3,357	71,012
Foreign nationals	10,556	811	11,367
Nationality not recorded	2,683	122	2,805
Total Africa	2,576	222	2,798
Algeria	172	0	172
Angola	74	5	79
Benin	1	0	1
Botswana	3	1	4
Burundi	9	0	9
Cameroon	32	2	34
Central African Republic	22	1	23
Congo	124	8	132
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	4	0	4
Egypt	13	0	13
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	1
Ethiopia	63	5	68
Gabon	1	0	1
Gambia	65	3	68
Ghana	138	14	152
Guinea	12	0	12
Guinea-Bissau	1	0	1
Ivory Coast	36	0	36
Kenya	56	7	63
Liberia	20	4	24
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	20	0	20
Malawi	14	1	15
Mali	1	0	1
Mauritania	2	1	3
Mauritius	10	0	10
Morocco	48	0	48
Mozambique	3	0	3
Namibia	3	0	3
Niger	11	2	13
Nigeria	645	89	734
Rwanda	16	0	16
Senegal	9	0	9
Sierra Leone	63	5	68
Somalia	442	10	452
South Africa	109	23	132
Sudan	43	2	45
Tanzania	23	2	25
Togo	5	0	5
Tunisia	18	0	18
Uganda	63	10	73
Zambia	14	3	17
Zimbabwe	167	24	191

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex, England and Wales—31 March 2010

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Total Asia	2,204	147	2,351
Afghanistan	123	1	124
Bangladesh	188	7	195
Cambodia	1	0	1
China	385	42	427
India	328	11	339
Indonesia	1	0	1
Japan	3	0	3
Korea, DPR (North Korea)	1	2	3
Korea, Republic of	5	0	5
Malaysia	37	5	42
Mongolia	3	1	4
Myanmar	3	0	3
Nepal	10	1	11
Pakistan	413	8	421
Philippines	18	8	26
Singapore	2	2	4
Sri Lanka	147	0	147
Taiwan (Nationalist Chinese)	2	1	3
Thailand	2	5	7
Vietnam	532	53	585
Total Central and South America	252	45	297
Argentina	5	3	8
Belize	0	1	1
Bolivia	7	1	8
Brazil	66	14	80
Chile	8	0	8
Colombia	71	5	76
Costa Rica	2	0	2
Ecuador	9	0	9
French Guiana	2	2	4
Guatemala	4	1	5
Guyana	29	4	33
Mexico	20	11	31
Nicaragua	3	0	3
Panama	1	0	1
Paraguay	2	0	2
Peru	3	1	4
Suriname	3	0	3
Uruguay	1	0	1
Venezuela	16	2	18
Total North America	106	22	128
Canada	26	6	32
United States	80	16	96
Total Europe[1]	3,746	252	3,998
Albania	163	4	167
Armenia	9	0	9
Austria	12	2	14
Azerbaijan	3	0	3
Belgium	30	3	33
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	4	14
Bulgaria	28	24	52
Croatia	9	0	9
Cyprus	30	0	30
Czech Republic	80	12	92
Denmark	16	1	17
Estonia	26	0	26
Finland	4	0	4
France	142	12	154
Georgia	8	0	8
Germany	84	11	95
Gibraltar	4	0	4
Greece	13	0	13
Hungary	26	6	32
Iceland	0	3	3
Irish Republic	657	25	682
Italy	80	2	82
Kazakhstan	2	0	2
Kyrgyzstan	1	1	2
Latvia	140	9	149
Liechtenstein	1	0	1
Lithuania	338	10	348
Macedonia	4	0	4
Malta	3	0	3
Moldova	15	1	16
Netherlands	99	15	114
Norway	7	0	7
Poland	657	13	670
Portugal	212	13	225
Romania	358	47	405
Russian Federation	112	12	124
San Marino	1	0	1
Serbia and Montenegro	38	0	38
Slovakia	54	6	60
Slovenia	3	0	3
Spain	65	10	75
Sweden	17	4	21
Switzerland	6	1	7
Turkey	170	1	171
Turkmenistan	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	8	0	8
Total Middle East	562	12	574
Iran	205	8	213
Iraq	240	1	241
Israel	35	2	37
Jordan	7	0	7
Kuwait	12	1	13
Lebanon	16	0	16
Oman	2	0	2
Qatar	1	0	1
Saudi Arabia	16	0	16
Syrian Arab Republic	12	0	12
United Arab Emirates	4	0	4
Yemen, Republic of	12	0	12
Total Oceania	39	3	42
Australia	24	3	27
Fiji	7	0	7
Kiribati	1	0	1
New Zealand	5	0	5
Papua New Guinea	1	0	1
Samoa	1	0	1

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex, England and Wales—31 March 2010

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Total West Indies	1,069	108	1,177
Anguilla	1	0	1
Aruba	1	0	1
Bahamas	2	0	2
Barbados	31	8	39
Bermuda	2	1	3
Cuba	3	0	3
Dominica	14	1	15
Dominican Republic	1	0	1
Grenada	18	1	19
Jamaica	895	65	960
Montserrat	13	0	13
Netherlands Antilles	6	3	9
St Kitts and Nevis	5	0	5
St Lucia	20	11	31
St Vincent and the Grenadines	15	2	17
Trinidad and Tobago	41	16	57
Virgin Islands	1	0	1
Total Other	2	0	2

[1] Excluding UK nationals

Data Sources and Quality

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex England and Wales—31 March 2010

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Total Africa	2,576	222	2,798
Algeria	172	0	172
Angola	74	5	79
Benin	1	0	1
Botswana	3	1	4
Burundi	9	0	9
Cameroon	32	2	34
Central African Republic	22	1	23
Congo	124	8	132
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	4	0	4
Egypt	13	0	13
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	1
Ethiopia	63	5	68
Gabon	1	0	1
Gambia	65	3	68
Ghana	138	14	152
Guinea	12	0	12
Guinea-Bissau	1	0	1
Ivory Coast	36	0	36
Kenya	56	7	63
Liberia	20	4	24
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	20	0	20
Malawi	14	1	15
Mali	1	0	1
Mauritania	2	1	3
Mauritius	10	0	10
Morocco	48	0	48
Mozambique	3	0	3
Namibia	3	0	3
Niger	11	2	13
Nigeria	645	89	734
Rwanda	16	0	16
Senegal	9	0	9
Sierra Leone	63	5	68
Somalia	442	10	452
South Africa	109	23	132
Sudan	43	2	45
Tanzania	23	2	25
Togo	5	0	5
Tunisia	18	0	18
Uganda	63	10	73
Zambia	14	3	17
Zimbabwe	167	24	191
Total Asia	2,204	147	2,351
Afghanistan	123	1	124
Bangladesh	188	7	195
Cambodia	1	0	1
China	385	42	427
India	328	11	339
Indonesia	1	0	1
Japan	3	0	3
Korea, DPR (North Korea)	1	2	3
Korea, Republic of	5	0	5
Malaysia	37	5	42
Mongolia	3	1	4
Myanmar	3	0	3
Nepal	10	1	11
Pakistan	413	8	421
Philippines	18	8	26
Singapore	2	2	4
Sri Lanka	147	0	147
Taiwan (Nationalist Chinese)	2	1	3
Thailand	2	5	7
Vietnam	532	53	585
Total Central and South America	252	45	297
Argentina	5	3	8
Belize	0	1	1
Bolivia	7	1	8
Brazil	66	14	80
Chile	8	0	8
Colombia	71	5	76
Costa Rica	2	0	2
Ecuador	9	0	9
French Guiana	2	2	4
Guatemala	4	1	5
Guyana	29	4	33
Mexico	20	11	31
Nicaragua	3	0	3
Panama	1	0	1
Paraguay	2	0	2
Peru	3	1	4
Suriname	3	0	3
Uruguay	1	0	1
Venezuela	16	2	18

Table 1: Population in prison by nationality and sex England and Wales—31 March 2010

Nationality	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Total North America	106	22	128
Canada	26	6	32
United States	80	16	96
Total Europe[1]	572	27	599
Albania	163	4	167
Armenia	9	0	9
Azerbaijan	3	0	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	4	14
Croatia	9	0	9
Georgia	8	0	8
Gibraltar	4	0	4
Iceland	0	3	3
Kazakhstan	2	0	2
Kyrgyzstan	1	1	2
Liechtenstein	1	0	1
Macedonia	4	0	4
Moldova	15	1	16
Norway	7	0	7
Russian Federation	112	12	124
San Marino	1	0	1
Serbia and Montenegro	38	0	38
Switzerland	6	1	7
Turkey	170	1	171
Turkmenistan	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	8	0	8
Total Middle East	562	12	574
Iran	205	8	213
Iraq	240	1	241
Israel	35	2	37
Jordan	7	0	7
Kuwait	12	1	13
Lebanon	16	0	16
Oman	2	0	2
Qatar	1	0	1
Saudi Arabia	16	0	16
Syrian Arab Republic	12	0	12
United Arab Emirates	4	0	4
Yemen, Republic of	12	0	12
Total Oceania	39	3	42
Australia	24	3	27
Fiji	7	0	7
Kiribati	1	0	1
New Zealand	5	0	5
Papua New Guinea	1	0	1
Samoa	1	0	1
Total West Indies	1,069	108	1,177
Anguilla	1	0	1
Aruba	1	0	1
Bahamas	2	0	2
Barbados	31	8	39
Bermuda	2	1	3
Cuba	3	0	3
Dominica	14	1	15
Dominican Republic	1	0	1
Grenada	18	1	19
Jamaica	895	65	960
Montserrat	13	0	13
Netherlands Antilles	6	3	9
St Kitts and Nevis	5	0	5
St Lucia	20	11	31
St Vincent and the Grenadines	15	2	17
Trinidad and Tobago	41	16	57
Virgin Islands	1	0	1
Total Other	2	0	2

[1] Excluding UK and EU nationals

Data Sources and Quality

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Prisoners' Transfers: Rehabilitation

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners were transferred between prisons to undertake rehabilitation as part of their parole conditions in the latest period for which figures are available; [5810]

(2) if he will take steps to enable all prisoners to undertake rehabilitation as part of their parole conditions without having to transfer between prisons. [5811]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of prisoners transferred to undertake rehabilitation as part of their parole conditions is not centrally recorded, and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by checking the files of all prisoners at each establishment who may have been transferred.

Prisoners often present a broad range of risks and needs which potentially need to be addressed to reduce their risk of re-offending on release. Every prison provides a variety of services, but significant resources would be required if each prison were capable of holding every category of prisoner and to deliver all the required services to prevent prisoners being transferred. Prisoners are transferred for a variety of reasons including, for example, to access particular activities or specialised services, promote family ties, to provide an opportunity to demonstrate reduced risk in a lower category establishment, or to maintain good order and control. It is however recognised that transfers should be kept to a minimum where practicable to support continuity of care. The National Offender Management Service continues to routinely review the provision of services across the estate in order to provide the most effective use of resources.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Abdelbasit Ali Mohmed al-Megrahi

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with the First Minister the question of whether to hold a public inquiry into the decision to release Mr Al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds, in light of Mr Al-Megrahi still being alive. [5683]

Alistair Burt: Our thoughts remain with the families of the victims of Lockerbie. My right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary, made clear his view at the time, that Mr Al-Megrahi's compassionate release by Scottish Ministers was a mistake. However, the question of whether it was appropriate, including any public inquiry, is for the Scottish authorities. I note the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee published a report on 5 February 2010 examining the process followed by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill MSP, in making the decision that led to Mr Al-Megrahi's release.

Afghanistan: Religious Freedom

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with his Afghan counterpart on the treatment of Afghan Christian converts. [6846]

Alistair Burt: We are aware of reports of the Deputy Secretary of the Afghan Lower House of Parliament's remarks regarding the execution of Christian converts from Islam. The remarks were made during a debate over a recent series of television reports, which showed video footage of Afghans converting to Christianity. Under Afghan law, proselytising is illegal and conversion from Islam is a capital offence.

The Government strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief. We are working to support all individuals who face discrimination and persecution on the basis of religion, including Christians, wherever they are in the world. Article 2 of the Afghan constitution provides for freedom of religion, and we expect the Afghan Government to fully implement this. We have a regular dialogue with the Afghan Government on human rights, including on the need to ensure the security of all Afghans, regardless of religion. In addition, we will raise particular cases of concern with the Afghan Government. We have not received any confirmed reports of Afghan Christian converts being prosecuted or put on trial.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the future of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and if he will make a statement. [6164]

Mr Lidington: The Peace Implementation Council met in Sarajevo on 29-30 June. Officials discussed progress towards the objectives and conditions necessary for closure of the Office of the High Representative. As these have not been completed, no decision on closure was taken.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has encouraged Bosnian leaders urgently to address the outstanding conditions.

Counter-terrorism: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much is planned to be spent on his Department's Counter-Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme in 2010-11. [5696]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs announced in his written statement to Parliament on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 38WS, following his review of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's programme spend the budget allocation for the Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme for the current financial year (2010-2011) will be maintained at £38 million.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* refreshments and *(b)* furnishings in his private office in each year from 2005 to 2010. [5622]

Alistair Burt: Expenditure on refreshments cannot be fully disaggregated from total spending on meetings and events. The majority of the furniture was replaced in 2007-08 as it either did not meet current health and safety regulations or was in a bad state of repair. The cost was £42,517 in 2007-08 and £598 in 2008-09, and nil other years.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6454]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers attended the Ministerial Induction course run by the National School of Government at no cost to the office. Ministers will carefully consider the opportunity for constructive and cost effective training in the future.

Exports

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what services his Department provides to small and medium-sized enterprises wishing to export their products. [5875]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Government delivers services for exporters through UK Trade and Investment. UKTI organises its trade services under two headings: 'Developing your international trade potential' for new and inexperienced exporters taking their first steps in international business; and 'Accessing foreign markets' for experienced exporters who are seeking to expand into new markets. Full details of these services can be found on UKTI's website:

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

In 2009-10 UKTI's trade services helped 23,600 companies to export and compete in global markets.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter dated 20 May 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ghulam Sarwar. [6338]

Alistair Burt: We did not receive an original copy of the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton's letter of 20 May 2010. After speaking with the right hon. Member's office we have now received a copy and will reply as soon as possible.

Sri Lanka

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when officials from his Department last visited the Jaffna Peninsula. [6616]

Alistair Burt: Our acting high commissioner and other members of staff from our high commission in Colombo visited the Jaffna Peninsula on 28 and 29 June 2010. They met key government, military, political and religious figures, as well as businesses and humanitarian organisations. They assessed the security situation, humanitarian requirements and opportunities for investment and economic development.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed human rights issues in Sri Lanka with his Sri Lankan counterpart. [6617]

Alistair Burt: I spoke with the Sri Lankan Minister of External Affairs, G L Peiris, on 16 June, when I raised the issue of human rights and in particular the role of the recently established "Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission".

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. [6619]

Alistair Burt: Despite some improvement in the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, we are concerned about the situation of journalists and human rights defenders, the lack of adequate investigations of alleged violations of human rights concerning abductions and enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and extra-judicial killings. We continue to raise these concerns both bilaterally with the Government of Sri Lanka and through the EU. We repeatedly call upon the Government of Sri Lanka to investigate reports of human rights abuses wherever they occur.

Tracey Lee Ann Foley

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Secret Intelligence Service holds information on Tracey Lee Ann Foley. [5822]

Alistair Burt: It is the longstanding policy of successive Governments not to comment on security and intelligence matters.

Turkey: Politics and Government

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to seek to reduce the incidence of extremism in Turkey. [3988]

Mr Lidington: Turkey is a key partner on tackling counter terrorism and extremism. The UK discusses these issues with Turkey on a regular basis. Most recently the Turkish Interior Minister Atalay discussed counter terrorism with the Home Secretary during his visit to the UK on 28-29 June 2010.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Chris Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has estimated the number of seats held by an hon. Member from *(a)* the Labour party, *(b)* the Conservative party and *(c)* the Liberal Democrat party which would be lost under his plans to equalise the number of registered voters in each constituency. [5266]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24W a Bill will be introduced before the summer recess to implement the coalition agreement commitment to make provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. Parliament will have the opportunity to debate its provisions. The independent Boundary Commissions will carry out their task, as always, in a fair and thorough way.

Dissolution

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to hold a consultation on proposals for a 55 per cent. threshold for the dissolution of a five-year fixed-term Parliament; and if he will publish all representations he has received on the proposals. [5063]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 23-25. The Government have listened carefully to what has been said on both sides of the House about its proposals for fixed-term Parliaments, and has decided that a majority of two-thirds will be needed to pass a dissolution motion, as opposed to the 55% first suggested.

Electoral Reform: Referendums

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to introduce restrictions on the publication of promotional material by *(a)* central and *(b)* local government in the period ahead of a referendum on electoral reform. [5471]

Mr Harper: Section 125 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 imposes a restriction on the publication of promotional material related to a referendum by either central or local government in the 28 days prior to the poll.

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to publish information on different voting systems in advance of his proposed referendum on electoral reform. [5473]

Mr Harper: It is clearly important that voters understand the voting systems that will be the subject of the referendum on electoral reform, in order to enable them to make an informed choice. The Government will consider the best means of ensuring that this is the case.

Electoral Register

Mr Straw: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the costs of implementing his policy of individual voter registration. [6351]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering different approaches to speeding up the implementation of individual voter registration. We will set out our plans in due course.

House of Lords

Chris Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans the Government has to recommend the nomination of new members of the House of Lords during this Parliament. [5267]

Mr Harper: The Deputy Prime Minister is chairing the cross-party committee which will bring forward proposals for a wholly or mainly elected upper Chamber. The committee will come forward with a draft Bill by the end of the year. Until such time appointments to the House of Lords will continue in the usual way.

House of Lords: Reform

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment has been made of the merits of the *(a)* open list and *(b)* partially open list system of proportional representation for use in electing a reformed second chamber of Parliament. [4968]

Mr Harper: The Committee on House of Lords reform, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, will consider the options for a proportional voting system for a wholly or mainly elected second chamber. The Committee will publish its proposals in a draft Bill by the end of the year.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what representations he has received on the role of the Lords Spiritual in a reformed second chamber of Parliament. [4969]

Mr Harper: The Government have received a number of representations on the role of the Lords Spiritual within a reformed second chamber.

Chris Evans: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he proposes to bring forward proposals for elections for the House of Lords. [5264]

Mr Harper: A committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister is charged with producing a draft Bill on House of Lords Reform by no later than the end of this year. The draft Bill will then be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny. The Government hope that this will be by a Joint Committee of both Houses.

It will then be for the Government to take a decision on introducing legislation.

Parliamentary Reform Bill

John Healey: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many Cabinet Office officials are working on preparations for the Parliamentary Reform Bill. [5116]

Mr Harper: The Government have an ambitious political and constitutional reform agenda. As the Deputy Prime Minister set out in his statement in the House of Commons on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 23, the Government will shortly introduce legislation for fixed parliamentary terms and for a referendum on the Alternative Vote system and for a review of constituency boundaries. Final decisions have yet to been taken on the content, titles or timing of many of the Bills which will deliver the Government's parliamentary reform agenda. I am therefore unable to provide a precise figure for the number of staff who will work on the legislation.

However, the work on the legislation will form some of that undertaken by the officials transferred as the Cabinet Office's new Constitution Group from the Ministry of Justice, in the machinery of government change announced by the Prime Minister on 2 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 22WS. They are supported by legal advisers from the Constitutional Law team in the Ministry of Justice.

Primary Elections

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 321W, on primary elections, (1) what his estimate is of the cost of funding 200 all-postal primaries in this Parliament; [5237]

(2) whether the funding for all-postal primaries will be available for primaries other than open primaries in which every elector can vote; [5238]

(3) what discussions he has had with the political parties on take up of state funding for all-postal primaries. [5239]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made a detailed assessment of the cost of funding the 200 all-postal primaries, and no decisions have yet been taken on what conditions might attach to the funding. I have not held discussions with political parties on this issue. Further details will be announced in due course.

Royal Prerogative

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to involve the House of Commons in the exercise of the prerogative powers of appointing a Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Crown. [4967]

Mr Harper: There are no plans to bring forward proposals in this area.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Animal Experiments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research. [4991]

Mr Willetts: The NC3Rs is mainly funded by the Medical and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Councils. It also receives some funding from the Home Office, and the charitable and private sectors.

The Government recognise the valuable contribution the NC3RS has made in advancing the 3Rs as detailed in a recent five-year review of the Centre. The results of the review will be used by the research councils to help decide on future funding levels for the Centre in the light of competing priorities for spending.

Business: Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his policy to remove one regulation when a new regulation is introduced applies to regulations in UK law deriving from EU obligations. [6280]

Mr Prisk: Officials are currently assessing the most effective method for applying the one-in, one-out rule to those European regulations and directives which affect businesses and the third sector in the UK.

Business: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises located in Coventry on access to credit. [6160]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises located in Coventry on access to credit. However, Ministers are considering options for the best ways to engage key representative bodies and banks to discuss access to credit issues.

The Budget announced that a Green Paper will be published before the summer recess to consider the broad range of finance options for businesses of different sizes.

Company Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to ensure that FTSE-listed companies' directors' social and environmental duties are adequately covered in company reporting. [6066]

Mr Davey: The Government's commitment is to reinstate an Operating and Financial Review to ensure that directors' social and environmental duties have to be covered in company reporting, and investigate further ways of improving corporate accountability and transparency. We intend to consult on this issue this summer with a view to publishing our proposals by the end of the year.

Connexions Service

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he has set for replacing the Connexions service with an all-age careers service; and if he will make a statement. [3989]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are currently considering how to make sure that all young people have access to high quality careers education and information, advice and guidance that helps them to make choices about learning options and future careers.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5966]

Mr Davey: During the period 1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010, 115 items were reported as missing on this Department's central London estate with an estimated replacement value of £28,500. Of these, 14 items were subsequently found with an estimated replacement value of £3,650.

The Department records items as missing, as it is not always possible to prove theft as the reason for the loss and some items reported are subsequently found.

The figure includes small, low value personal items as well as items of electrical equipment, such as ICT equipment, mobile phones and accessories (some of which may have been personal items) and multi media equipment.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present Administration. [6445]

Mr Davey: The Department has spent £800.00 plus VAT on initial photographs of six Business, Innovation and Skills Ministers shortly after they were appointed.

Higher Education

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to allow private for-profit higher education institutions to access Higher Education Funding Council for England funding. [5691]

Mr Willetts: I believe private for-profit higher education institutions have a role to play in the high education landscape of this country. Any consideration of whether there is scope for giving such institutions access to HEFCE funding should wait until after we have had the chance to see and reflect on the outcome of the independent review of higher education funding and student finance led by Lord Browne.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on allowing private higher education institutions access to the student loans system. [5692]

Mr Willetts: No representations have been received on allowing private higher education institutions access to the student loans system. As in the past, higher education courses provided by private institutions may be specifically designated to attract student support on an individual basis and students attending these courses can access student loans.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to change the criteria a higher education institution must meet in order to be classified as a university. [5693]

Mr Willetts: There are no immediate plans to make changes to the criteria. This an area we will keep under review but changes would only be made after consultation with interested parties.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to review the role of private higher education institutions in the higher education system. [5694]

Mr Willetts: The private sector has an important role to play in higher education and I would like to see the opportunity for this type of provision to grow in this country. The independent review of higher education funding and student finance led by Lord Browne may also review the role of the private sector.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to the findings of the recent report by the Higher Education Funding Council of England, "student ethnicity: profile and progression of entrants to full-time, first degree study" on the achievement gap between white and ethnic minority students. [4895]

Mr Willetts: I have noted with interest HEFCE's publication "Student ethnicity: profile and progression of entrants to full-time, first degree study". Although much of the content of the report was already in the public domain through a range of research reports, it is helpful to draw together outcomes that include participation, progression and attainment.

The sector has acted on previous research evidence concerning degree attainment gaps between minority ethnic and white students. The work of the higher education academy and the equality challenge unit continues to contribute towards institutions better understanding the complex factors underpinning the gaps and developing initiatives to address them.

The need to attract more students from disadvantaged backgrounds into higher education and to increase social mobility is written into the coalition agreement. The coalition agreement is clear that future activity in these areas needs to be judged against the findings from Lord Browne's independent review of higher education funding and student finance.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from which budgets the £200 million in savings from the higher education budget announced by his Department on 24 May 2010 will be made. [4592]

Mr Willetts: The savings in the Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget for 2010-11 are made up of a reduction in the university modernisation fund of £118 million and further efficiency savings of £82 million to be split between the teaching grant and capital budgets. However, compared to the Grant letter issued in December 2009, HEFCE's revised overall budget will rise by £70 million for 2010-11.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the effects on expenditure by the higher education sector of the Government's proposal to increase the normal rate of value added tax to 20 per cent. [4595]

Mr Willetts: The Department has not made an estimate of the additional costs to the higher education sector of the increase in the rate of VAT. Separately, we have introduced the £20 million shared services element of the university modernisation fund. It will support projects to increase collaboration in the sector. This will encourage behaviour which can go some way to mitigate the increase in VAT.

Postcomm: Public Appointments

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the extent to which the appointment of Jenny Block as Postcomm's legal director complies with Article 22 of the postal services directive on the independence of national regulatory authorities from postal operators; and if he will make a statement. [6314]

Mr Davey: Postcomm was established under the Postal Services Act 2000 as the independent regulator of the postal sector.

All of Postcomm's directors have declared and published their interests on its website:

http://www.psc.gov.uk/about-postcomm/commissioners-and-directors/directors-declaration-of-interest.html

Where there is a possible conflict of interest associated with any appointments made by Postcomm, appropriate procedures are put in place to deal with the potential conflict.

As a non-ministerial Department (NMD), Postcomm has direct responsibility for its administration and staffing. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Postcomm, Tim Brown, to provide a fuller reply to the hon. Member. A copy of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Sector Skills Council for Construction

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the Sector Skills Council for Construction's review of qualifying the workforce; whether its terms of reference include competence card schemes; and if he will make a statement. [6626]

Mr Hayes: The Sector Skills Council for Construction is currently reviewing progress being made towards qualifying the work force in the construction industry. This includes the contribution made by competence-based card schemes. Construction Skills is also contributing to a review being carried out by the Health and Safety Executive. The governing body of the SSC will consider the outcome of these pieces of work later in the year.

Summertime

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations his Department has received since May 2010 on the introduction of daylight saving time throughout the year; and what consideration the Government are giving to its introduction on a permanent basis. [5892]

Mr Davey: The Department has received a number of representations on this subject since May, including written correspondence and a number of parliamentary questions. We are also aware of the 10:10 Lighter Later campaign and the recent petition that has been put forward. The Government continues to listen to all such representatives, but does not have any current plans to change the existing arrangements.

Termination of Employment

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of simplifying legislation on terminating the contracts of employees. [6534]

Mr Davey: Under current employment legislation, there are five potentially valid reasons for dismissal. These are capability, conduct, redundancy, retirement, and that continued employment would breach a statutory requirement. The legislation also provides for "some other substantial reason", where an employer has a good reason for dismissing an employee which is not one of these five.

We have no current plans to change the law in this area, but if my hon. Friend wishes to write to me setting out his concerns, I will consider whether to include it in our review of employment law.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission was for each £1 of child maintenance arrears collected in the latest period for which figures are available. [4774]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the cost to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is for each £1 of child maintenance arrears collected. [4774]

The latest published information shows that costs for the statutory maintenance scheme for 2009/10 were £499.0m. In the same period, £1,141m was collected and arranged in child maintenance. This gives an average cost of 44p for each £1 of child maintenance collected and arranged.

It is not possible to assign a separate cost to the collection of arrears as activity to collect regular maintenance and arrears is undertaken simultaneously on a case by case basis.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications to the Child Support Agency for a departure or variation were by *(a)* a non-resident parent and *(b)* parents with care in the last three years; and how many such applications were (i) granted and (ii) rejected. [4775]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many applications to the Child Support Agency for a departure or variation were by (a) a non-resident parent and (b) parents with care in the last three years; and how many such applications were (i) granted and (ii) rejected.

Unfortunately there is no management information is available on the number of variation applications. Management information on new applications for a departure cannot be broken down by non-resident parent and parent with care. The table below therefore includes information on the total number of new applications for a departure, the number of applications granted and the number of applications refused.

New applications/clearances for a departure

Departures	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Total application intake	6,560	4,020	3,300
NRP applications granted	1,440	1,330	1,200
PWC applications granted	1,400	1,100	1,080
Other clearances	2,830	750	100
Total applications refused	990	1,190	1,140

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to nearest 10.
2. The application intake may include more than one application or variation on the same case.
3. Other clearances include applications that are withdrawn as well as those under 'preliminary consideration'.
4. Applications granted, applications refused and other clearances are based on the actual granted, refusal or clearance date. Applications granted, refused or cleared in one year may have been from a previous year's intake.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of expenditure by his Department and its predecessors on *(a)* organising and *(b)* attending conferences in each year since 1997. [5938]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 from the Department of Social Security (DSS), the Employment Service (ES) and some parts of the Department for Education and Employment (DFEE) and no information is available before that time.

The Department does not hold a central record of the total cost of organising and attending conferences. However, identifiable expenditure for management conferences and external meetings are provided in the following table:

	£ million
2001-02	6.705
2002-03	19.729
2003-04	12.284
2004-05	10.738
2005-06	10.640
2006-07	11.533
2007-08	11.532
2008-09	16.273
2009-10[1]	15.636

[1] The accounts for 2009-10 have not been finalised therefore are subject to change.

These figures do not include expenditure incurred by the non-departmental public bodies:

Health and Safety Executive; or

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, since its inception in 2008-09

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5915]

Chris Grayling: The Department is fully committed to equality of opportunity for all staff and to ensuring that equality is built into the services it provides to the public. The Department therefore has in place a central diversity and equality team to ensure that it complies with all equality legislation. This team actively promotes equality and diversity in the development of policies, services, and in the treatment of staff.

Other staff throughout the Department are also responsible for promoting equality and diversity as part of their wider responsibilities. Staff across the Department have the opportunity to be involved in seven national staff networks which promote diversity awareness.

Information on the number of staff in the central team and how much has been spent in total and on staff costs by the central team in each of the last three years is in the following table. Information on the number of other staff in the Department working on equality and diversity cannot be disaggregated from their wider duties and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Information on the costs of promoting equality and diversity outside the central team is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Figures for the central team

	Total (£ million)	*Staff costs (£ million)*	*Headcount (FTE)*
2009-10	1.321	1.065	[1]23.33
2008-09	1.731	1.150	[2]28.16
2007-08	1.628	1.120	[3]22.13

[1] March 2010
[2] March 2009
[3] March 2008

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present Administration; and at what cost. [6442]

Chris Grayling: Since the formation of the new coalition Government no training has been provided to DWP Ministers.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to consult with businesses on the implementation of the Pensions Act 2008. [6073]

Steve Webb: The Government are committed to introducing automatic enrolment as an effective means of increasing pension saving.

The Making Automatic Enrolment Work review, announced on 24 June will consider whether the approach inherited from the previous Administration strikes the right balance between cost, benefits and risks for individuals, employers, and the tax-payer. The review team will contact relevant stakeholders to let them know how they can participate in and contribute to the review.

The terms of reference for the review can be found on the DWP website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/making-automatic-enrolment-work-tor.pdf

Funeral Payments

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will increase the *(a)* component to cover the cost of funeral directors' expenses and *(b)* level of the funeral benefit payment; and if he will make a statement. [6343]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Hartlepool (Mr Wright) on 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 307W.

Future Jobs Fund

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 75W, on the future jobs fund, what categories of information his Department holds on the future jobs fund; and what data he has used to assess its effectiveness. [5130]

Chris Grayling: The Department holds information on the number of future jobs fund placements available, the number of customers who started a future jobs fund job and financial information on payments made, along with some demographical and geographical information. Information that has been quality assured under the UK Statistics Authority's code of practice is released as official statistics.

We have agreed to fund over 100,000 jobs. The Department is committed to implementing programmes that deliver value for money and deliver sustainable outcomes. At up to £6,500 per person the future jobs fund is five times more expensive than some other elements of the young person's guarantee. The fund does not ensure sustainable employment for young people: it creates short term jobs, and the grants do not include any incentives to move people into permanent posts. Reducing the scope of the programme will save £290 million and this will help the Government tackle the unprecedented £156 billion deficit.

The Government are committed to supporting young people. The 50,000 new apprenticeships announced in May and the forthcoming Work Programme will help move young people into sustainable employment.

Housing Benefit

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to review the local housing allowance system. [5293]

Steve Webb: The Department has been carrying out a review of the local housing allowance (LHA) scheme over a two-year period from the commencement of its roll-out in April 2008. The aim of the review is to monitor the impact of the LHA at a national level, against the original LHA policy objectives set out by the previous Government. We aim to publish a report later in the year.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the proportion of landlords with properties for rent at below the 30th percentile of the market who let to housing benefit claimants. [5697]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level is of local housing allowance in each of the broad market rental areas; at what levels they will be set in each area when rates are set at the 30th percentile of local rents; and if he will make a statement. [5702]

Steve Webb: Local housing allowance (LHA) rates for all broad rental market areas in England, Scotland and Wales are published by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) on their website at:

> www.voa.gov.uk

The VOA has also published on their website indicative LHA rates at the 30th percentile based on data used to produce the June 2010 rates in England.

The Scottish Government have published indicative LHA rates at the 30th percentile based on data used to produce the July 2010 LHA rates in Scotland. These are available on the Scottish Government website at:

> www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/PrivateRenting/rent-registration-service/setting-lha/Figures/LHAJULY2010

This will be updated each month until LHA rates are set at the 30th percentile from October 2011.

Indicative LHA rates at the 30th percentile for broad rental market areas in Wales are not as yet published but are given in the following table.

30th Percentile calculation—Wales

£

Broad rental market area	*Shared 1 bedroom*	*1 bedroom*	*2 bedroom*	*3 bedroom*	*4 bedroom*
Blaenau	45.00	64.62	76.92	86.54	107.31
Brecon and Radnor	50.00	65.00	87.00	103.85	115.38
Bridgend	49.00	77.31	98.08	105.00	150.00
Caerphilly	54.00	71.54	92.31	100.00	138.46
Cardiff	54.23	98.08	126.92	144.23	184.62
Carmarthen	51.00	70.00	87.69	99.23	115.38
Ceredigion	63.50	80.77	98.08	110.00	126.92
Flint	55.00	75.00	103.85	121.15	155.77
Merthyr Cynon	45.00	65.00	80.00	87.69	110.00
Monmouth	56.54	86.54	114.23	132.69	173.08
Newport	50.00	76.15	103.85	115.38	150.00
North Clwyd	60.00	75.00	97.00	115.38	148.85
North Powys	50.00	60.00	80.77	92.31	126.92
North West Wales	50.00	6.5.00	85.38	98.08	121.15
NPT	54.00	75.00	87.69	98.08	114.23
Pembroke	54.00	77.54	92.31	115.38	150.00
South Gwynedd	50.00	60.00	73.85	83.08	80.00
Swansea	51.92	85.00	103.85	110.00	155.77
Taff Rhondda	45.00	62.00	84.23	90.00	126.92
Torfaen	60.00	80.77	92.31	110.77	132.69
Vale of Glamorgan	51.92	93.75	115.38	126.92	173.08
Wrexham	55.00	69.23	98.08	115.38	150.00

Note:
The rates are based on July 2010 data.
Source:
Rent Officers Wales

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed cap on local housing allowance in relation to the housing benefit subsidy to local authorities on homeless households placed in temporary accommodation. [5841]

Steve Webb: Housing benefit subsidy for people in temporary accommodation is considered separately to mainstream local housing allowance rates and reviewed annually.

The proposed changes to local housing allowance rates from next year, including the introduction of upper cap limits in April 2011, would not affect housing benefit subsidy levels for private sector leased temporary accommodation before April 2012. This is because, under existing legislation, housing benefit subsidy levels for this type of temporary accommodation are based on a formula that uses local housing allowance rates for the January preceding each relevant financial year. Therefore subsidy levels until April 2012 would be based on local housing allowance rates before the proposed changes take effect.

Subsidy levels from April 2012, including the method used to calculate them, have not yet been decided.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the likely effects on *(a)* levels of homelessness and *(b)* demand for affordable housing of implementation of the proposed changes to the payment of housing benefit in each of the next five years. [6473]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions undertakes rigorous assessments of all new policies and will fully consider the effects of changes to housing benefit on homelessness and the demand for affordable housing alongside the detailed policy design of these measures. The Department will work with Communities and Local Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Government to assess the wider housing implications of these policies. Information will be published in due course.

Housing Benefit: Tower Hamlets

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding for discretionary housing payments has been made available to the London borough of Tower Hamlets in each year since 1997. [5842]

Steve Webb: The discretionary housing payments (DHP) scheme was introduced in July 2001. The Government makes a contribution to each local authority's expenditure on DHP. The local authority is allowed to add to this contribution, as long as the total expenditure does not exceed 2.5 times the Government's contribution for that year.

The available information is in the following table.

Government DHP contribution to the London borough of Tower Hamlets since 2001, and Tower Hamlets' reported expenditure

£

	Government contribution	*Total expenditure*
2001-02	95,889	54,651
2002-03	140,734	110,672
2003-04	140,734	112,552
2004-05	150,300	141,624
2005-06	144,769	156,675
2006-07	156,025	92,995
2007-08	157,141	127,903
2008-09	126,213	146,898
2009-10	140,934	152,128
2010-11	132,770	[1]—

[1] Not yet known.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions allocations and Local Authority returns

Jobseekers Allowance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents in Wakefield constituency who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in 2013; [6772]

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents in Cynon Valley constituency who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in 2013; [6778]

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in Birmingham, Erdington constituency in 2013. [6945]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Lone Parents: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents there are in West Lancashire constituency. [5631]

Maria Miller: In 2008, there were estimated to be 1,600 lone parents in West Lancashire. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100. The estimate is based on the Household Annual Population survey (HAPS). The latest available wave for the HAPS is 2008. It is important to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to change the system of payment of mortgage interest for those who claim jobseeker's allowance. [5812]

Chris Grayling: A two-year time limit for jobseeker's allowance customers was introduced in January 2009. There are no current plans to make further changes, but the Government are in the early stages of considering future policy on support for mortgage interest.

Pension Credit: Richmond Park

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Richmond Park constituency claim pension credit. [6930]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Richmond Park	3,170	2,760

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency receive (i) the basic state pension and (ii) pension credit. [6009]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Slough	13,440	5,280	4,330
Salisbury	20,250	3,770	3,150
Scarborough and Whitby	24,330	7,430	6,000

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in (i) Glasgow North and (ii) Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [6149]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Glasgow North	8,940	4,580	3,990
Ealing Central and Acton	13,160	4,540	3,930

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Ashton-in-Makerfield

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Makerfield constituency. [6051]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table.

Parliamentary constituency: Makerfield

	Number
State pension recipients	18,680
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	6,210
Pension credit household recipients	4,870

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Bishop Auckland

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency receive (i) the basic state pension and (ii) pension credit. [5092]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Bishop Auckland	19,030	7,460	5,940
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	20,950	7,250	5,880

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Pensioners: Enfield

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners resident in *(a)* the London borough of Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North constituency are in receipt of (i) the basic state pension and (ii) pension credit. [5591]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Area	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Enfield local authority	42,700	14,750	11,860
Enfield North parliamentary constituency	14,050	4,550	3,730

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Greater Manchester

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Stretford and Urmston constituency. [5844]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Stretford and Urmston	16,850	5,380	4,490

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Pensioners: Houghton-le-Spring

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [5900]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Houghton and Sunderland South parliamentary constituency

	Number
State pension recipients	18,740
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	8,130
Pension credit household recipients	6,470

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total State Pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Pensioners: Hull

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Kingston upon Hull North constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [6521]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Kingston upon Hull	12,860	6,570	5,190

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in West Lancashire constituency. [5625]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
West Lancashire	18,680	6,240	4,990

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State Pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will extend the terms of reference of his Department's review into public sector pensions to include the pension arrangements of Government special advisers. [5760]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

Special advisers working for the Government are members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, and this scheme falls within the scope of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission.

Pensioners: Motherwell

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Motherwell and Wishaw constituency are in receipt of *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [6531]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Motherwell and Wishaw parliamentary constituency

	Number
State pension recipients	16,280
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	7,770
Pension credit household recipients	6,420

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Worsley

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. [6092]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency	*State pension recipients*	*Pension credit individual beneficiaries*	*Pension credit household recipients*
Worsley and Eccles South	17,630	6,590	5,380

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensions Act 2008

Mr Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has made an assessment of the suitability of August as the month during which the implementation date for the Pensions Act 2008 falls. [6075]

Steve Webb: The Pensions Act 2008 will be implemented from October 2012, with employers being brought under the duties gradually, over a four-year period. Employers are due to be brought within the scope of the employer duties in a series of monthly stages, starting with the largest firms, with the majority of the smallest companies being brought in from August 2014.

Staging is essential to ensure the reforms are implemented safely and fairly. Following extensive work with our delivery partners, we have determined that staging in multiple tranches over four years strikes the right balance between managing operational risks and getting people into saving quickly.

We consulted widely on our implementation approach and have discussed whether to avoid staging during certain times of year, to reduce burdens on businesses. Based on advice from stakeholders, we have ensured that employers will not be staged in during December.

In addition, to provide maximum flexibility, employers scheduled for the month of August will be free to bring their date forward to an alternative month, provided this is not before October 2012.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the distributional effects of the proposed changes in welfare benefits by income decile of the population in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Northern Ireland, *(d)* Wales, *(e)* England and *(f)* each English region in each year from 2010-11 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [4971]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

This Government have published for the first time estimates of the distributional impact of announced tax and benefit measures.

Estimates of the distributional impact of tax credit and benefits changes implemented in 2012-13 at the UK level are set out in annex A of the Budget document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

"Budget 2010: Data sources" provides a full list of modelled measures:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
junebudget_data_sources.pdf

Estimates for 2010-11 are not available as the tax credit and benefit measures that we are able to model have an impact from 2011-12 onward.

Looking at the impact of welfare benefits changes in 2011-12 would only show a partial effect as it is only in 2012-13 that tax credit changes will be fully implemented. Estimates post 2012-13 are not available due to greater uncertainty surrounding longer term economic forecasts underpinning the modelling.

Estimates of changes in welfare benefits by income decile are only available at UK level as lower geographical disaggregations do not provide sufficiently robust results.

Social Security Benefits: Lewisham

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Lewisham East constituency. [6582]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
Lewisham East	780	3,800	5,000

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Unemployment: Older Workers

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to tackle unemployment among those over 50 years old; and if he will make a statement. [5420]

Chris Grayling: We have announced plans for radical reforms of the welfare to work system and the implementation of the Work programme. The Work programme will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help for people who find themselves out of work regardless of the benefit they claim. This is being designed to meet the needs of jobseekers of all ages including people aged over 50.

We aim to have the new Work programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011.

Alongside the core Work programme we will introduce a series of support measures such as, help for business start ups, Work clubs, and specialised pre-employment training and work placements.

Recognising the particular issues some older jobseekers face, we have produced good practice and support materials to help advisers and providers working with customers aged over 50 who are seeking work.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to secure a legally binding international treaty on climate change. [6507]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to seeking an ambitious global deal to tackle climate change. The Government are playing their full part in the international negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

By the time of the Climate Change Conference in Cancun in November this year, we aim to make substantial progress towards agreement on the key elements of a legally binding international agreement.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on proposals for a legally binding international treaty on climate change. [6508]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to reaching an international deal to reduce emissions and we are committed to working with other Governments and international interlocutors to achieve this.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has already had a number of meetings and made telephone calls to a number of countries. Most recently he met with counterparts in the margins of the Major Economies Forum in Rome (30 June-1 July).

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [6855]

Gregory Barker: The Department fully occupies one building in London (3 Whitehall Place) and part-occupies one building in Aberdeen (Atholl House, Guild Street).

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to reduce the level of his Department's carbon emissions by 10% in the next 12 months. [6511]

Gregory Barker: On 14 May 2010, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced, during a visit to DECC's London headquarters, a commitment to reduce central Government emissions by 10% in the next 12 months. DECC will play its full part by reducing its emissions from electricity and gas use on its estate by at least 10% over this period, on top of the 20% CO_2 reduction secured in the 2009-10 financial year.

The measures the Department intends to take include changes to lighting, heating and cooling systems and a staff engagement programme to encourage behaviour change to reduce energy use further. The Department regularly reports progress on energy efficiency on its website, where a real-time energy monitor is also available that provides live information updated every five seconds on electricity and gas use.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6441]

Gregory Barker: The total spent by DECC on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the Government is £39.

Fuel Poverty: Richmond Park

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of households in Richmond Park constituency are in fuel poverty. [6932]

Gregory Barker: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were 3,300 households in the Richmond Park constituency that were classified as living in fuel poverty. This is equivalent to 6.9% of all households in the Richmond Park constituency.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on the creation of a green investment bank. [6510]

Gregory Barker: The Government will put forward detailed proposals on the creation of a green investment bank following the spending review.

A wide range of options for the scope and structure of the green investment bank are being considered. The Government have received a number of representations in this respect, including the findings and recommendations of the review undertaken by Bob Wigley and his panel, which was published last month.

Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change planning session in October 2010 will be conducted under the terms of the Aarhus Convention. [5381]

Gregory Barker: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) conducts its meetings in accordance with its own rules of procedure which are available on its website. Not all of the IPCC member states are party to the convention and we cannot comment on whether the IPCC's planning session will be conducted under the terms of the Aarhus Convention, although all papers from the meeting will be made available on the IPCC website. However, the UK is a party to the convention and we will continue encouraging the IPCC to continue to be as open in terms of its processes and procedures as possible.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proposed changes in the conduct of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments and procedures he plans to support at the IPCC plenary session in October 2010. [5382]

Gregory Barker: We have been asked to comment on the current rules of procedure for election of the IPCC bureau and any task force bureau and this will be discussed at plenary in October. Apart from this, we currently have no plans to propose changes to the IPCC at the meeting. The October meeting will consider the outcomes of the IAC review and we will consider what implications this has for the IPCC within that meeting.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the name is of each representative of the Government who will attend the plenary session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2010. [5383]

Gregory Barker: The UK delegation to the IPCC plenary session in October has not yet been selected.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to increase the feed-in tariff to a rate of 41p per kilowatt in relation to photovoltaic panels. [5023]

Gregory Barker: A generation tariff rate of 41.3p/kWh is paid for solar photovoltaic installations of 4 kW or less in capacity. This would equate to a typical domestic sized installation which would also benefit from the additional export tariff rate of 3p/kWh.

The table of tariffs, available from our website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/fits

and reproduced as follows, details the rates, banded by scale, for eligible technologies.

Table of tariffs up to 2013

		Tariff level for new installations in period (p/kWh)[1]			
Technology	*Scale*	*Year 1: 1 April 2010-31 March 2011*	*Year 2: 1 April 2011-31 March 2012*	*Year 3: 1 April 2012-31 March 2013*	*Tariff lifetime (years)*
Anaerobic digestion	=500 kW	11.5	11.5	11.5	20
Anaerobic digestion	>500 kW	9.0	9.0	9.0	20
Hydro	=15 kW	19.9	19.9	19.9	20
Hydro	>15-100 kW	17.8	17.8	17.8	20
Hydro	>100 kW-2 MW	11.0	11.0	11.0	20
Hydro	>2 MW-5 MW	4.5	4.5	4.5	20
MicroCHP pilot	<2 kW	10	10	10	10
PV	=4 kW (new build)	36.1	36.1	33.0	25
PV	=4 kW (retrofit)	41.3	41.3	37.8	25
PV	>4-10 kW	36.1	36.1	33.0	25
PV	>10-100 kW	31.4	31.4	28.7	25
PV	>100 kW-5 MW	29.3	29.3	26.8	25
PV	Stand alone system	29.3	29.3	26.8	25
Wind	=1.5 kW	34.5	34.5	32.6	20
Wind	>1.5-15 kW	26.7	26.7	25.5	20
Wind	>15-100 kW	24.1	24.1	23.0	20
Wind	>100-500 kW	18.8	18.8	18.8	20
Wind	>500 kW-1.5MW	9.4	9.4	9.4	20
Wind	>1.5 MW-5 MW	4.5	4.5	4.5	20
Existing microgenerators transferred from the RO		9	9.0	9.0	to 2027

[1] Tariffs will be inflated annually.

Taxation: Carbon Emissions

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the measures in the June 2010 Budget on funding for transition to a low-carbon future. [6498]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The June Budget set the overall spending envelope for Government, consistent with reducing the deficit, and meeting the fiscal mandate of achieving cyclically adjusted current balance by the end of the rolling, five-year forecast period. The allocation of this spending across Government's priorities will be decided in the course of the Spending Review, to be concluded on 20 October.

Wind Power

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on wind farms. [5849]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to the development of wind energy in the UK. As an island nation we have outstanding wind resources and wind energy is an indigenous source of energy which is needed to meet our renewable energy and climate change goals. The wind industry can be a key player in creating the investment, exports and jobs we need to bring back economic prosperity, and the UK is already a world leader in offshore wind.

We also want communities and individuals to benefit from the increase in renewable energy, including wind power, and to own a stake in our collective low carbon future. This is why we committed in the coalition programme for Government to encouraging more community-owned renewable energy and allowing communities that host renewable energy projects to keep the additional business rates they generate.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects of wind turbines on the health of nearby residents. [6215]

Charles Hendry: The planning process requires developers and planners to evaluate the likely impact of issues such as noise and shadow flicker from wind turbines on local residents and those working in the vicinity. Planning authorities can and do refuse planning permission for proposed wind farms where there are likely to be significant impacts which cannot be acceptably mitigated.

A study was commissioned in 2007 into a noise phenomenon known as aerodynamic modulation (AM), which it is was thought could be a cause of noise disturbance for nearby residents. The study found that the incidence of AM resulting from wind farms in the UK is low. Out of the 133 wind farms in operation at the time, there were four cases where AM appeared to be a factor. Complaints have subsided for three out of these four sites.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reduce the incidence of alcohol abuse. [5868]

Anne Milton: Alcohol is a major public health issue. We are determined to ensure effective commissioning of national health service services, with a focus on prevention and good outcomes from treatment, including treatment for alcohol abuse.

We are committed to banning the sale of alcohol below cost, to reviewing alcohol taxation and pricing to ensure it tackles binge drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs and important local industries. We are committed to introducing a tougher licensing regime.

We will set out our plans in more detail through announcements in the coming months.

Benzodiazepines and Antidepressants

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions of *(a)* individual benzodiazepine drugs and *(b)* antidepressants were dispensed in the community in 2009. [5531]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Benzodiazepine prescription items classified as hypnotics and anxiolytics in sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 of the British National Formulary (BNF) and dispensed in the community in England in 2009

BNF chemical name	*Prescription items (Thousand)*
Alprazolam	[1]—
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	239.6
Diazepam	5,014.0
Flurazepam Hydrochloride	[1]—
Loprazolam Mesilate	96.3
Lorazepam	930.7
Lormetazepam	72.3
Nitrazepam	1,100.5
Oxazepam	171.5
Temazepam	2,969.0

[1] Less than 50 prescription items dispensed
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

Benzodiazepine prescription items classified as antiepileptic drugs in sections 4.8.1 and 4.8.2 of the British National Formulary (BNF) and dispensed in the community in England in 2009

BNF chemical name	*Prescription items (Thousand)*
Clonazepam	574.6
Clobazam	173.5
Midazolam	25.6

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

Benzodiazepine prescription items classified as sedative and analgesic peri-operative drugs in section 15.1.4 of the British National Formulary (BNF) and dispensed in the community in England in 2009

BNF chemical name	*Prescription items (Thousand)*
Midazolam	68.9

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

Antidepressant prescription items classified in section 4.3 of the British National Formulary (BNF) and dispensed in the community in England 2009

BNF chemical name	*Prescription items (Thousand)*
Agomelatine	5.2
Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	7,901.5
Amoxapine	[1]—
Citalopram Hydrobromide	10,445.9
Citalopram Hydrochloride	65.1
Clomipramine Hydrochloride	360.0
Dosulepin Hydrochloride	1,832.0
Doxepin	46.8
Duloxetine Hydrochloride	462.7
Escitalopram	1,250.8
Fluoxetine Hydrochloride	5,220.0
Flupentixol Hydrochloride	185.5
Fluvoxamine Maleate	28.8
Imipramine Hydrochloride	196.8
Isocarboxazid	2.9
Lofepramine Hydrochloride	361.0
Maprotiline Hydrochloride	[1]—
Mianserin Hydrochloride	9.8
Mirtazapine	2,854.5
Moclobemide	24.6
Nefazodone Hydrochloride	0.5
Nortriptyline	264.3
Paroxetine Hydrochloride	1,637.7
Phenelzine Sulphate	22.7
Reboxetine	53.5
Sertraline Hydrochloride	2,395.4
Tranylcypromine Sulphate	11.7
Trazodone Hydrochloride	849.1
Trimipramine Maleate	130.3
Tryptophan	12.4
Venlafaxine	2,509.0

[1] Less than 50 prescription items dispensed
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between his Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5549]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not recorded by the Department. However, Ministers based at Richmond house regularly walk to the House.

Departmental Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5969]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table outlines information technology (IT) losses for financial year 2009-10 and is the latest information held. No losses of other departmental property have been reported. No distinction is made between items lost or stolen.

IT Equipment Losses 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Items	*Total items lost or stolen during the year*	*Total Monetary loss for the year (£)*
Mobile Telephones	15	1,080.15
Laptops	22	22,088.35
Psions, PalmPilots, Ipaqs, BlackBerries	46	10,778.09
Projectors	1	934.12
Storage devices (memory sticks etc)	2	15.00
Other IT equipment	18	2,442.48
Total Losses	104	37,338.19

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* refreshments and *(b)* furnishings in his private office in each year from 2005 to 2010. [5620]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental records show that expenditure on refreshments and furnishings in the Secretary of State's office in the years requested is in the following table.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010*[1]
Refreshments	9214.21	22,492.56	11,934.56	4,013.58	2,393.62	485.17
Furnishings	0	0	0	4,710.00	0	0

[1] To the present.

Fats: Health Hazards

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on proposals to ban industrially produced trans fatty acids. [5933]

Anne Milton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received a number of representations from members of the public and also a wide-ranging report on the prevention of cardiovascular disease at a population level from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence.

Fluoride: Drinking Water

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statistical information his Department holds on the effect on levels of health inequality of the addition of fluoride to the water supply since the commencement of the Water Act 2003. [6062]

Anne Milton: There have been no new fluoridation schemes since 2003. However, the potential that fluoridation offers for reducing inequalities in oral health is well illustrated by data from nationally coordinated surveys of child dental health, a copy of which has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.bascd.org/annual_survey_results.php

By way of example, a survey conducted in 2007-08 shows five-year-old children in Sandwell, in the fluoridated west midlands, have on average 1.1 decayed, missing or filled tooth compared with an average of 2.4 in Blackburn, an area of a similar socio-economic profile in the north-west where the water is not fluoridated. Equally significant is information from the 2009 health profile for the west midlands, which covered a wide range of indices including life expectancy, infant deaths, violent crime and drug misuse. The profile shows that, of all the indices, only those for tooth decay and road injuries and deaths in the west midlands were below the national average. A copy of the profile has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_REGIONS_2009

Food: Advertising

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on restrictions on the scheduling of television advertising of food and drink with high levels of fat, salt or sugar. [5925]

Anne Milton: The television regulator Ofcom has placed scheduling restrictions on the broadcast advertising of foods high in fat, salt and sugar during children's programmes and programmes of particular appeal to children up to the age of 16.

We will consider this issue further as we develop our public health proposals.

Food: Labelling

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of the food industry on the effects of the provision of food label information on the (i) salt, (ii) sugar and (iii) fat content of foods on the ability of people to manage their (A) diabetes, (B) heart disease, (C) stroke, (D) obesity and (E) other chronic medical conditions; what recent representations he has received on those matters; what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on those matters; and if he will make a statement. [5462]

Anne Milton: Ministers have not had any recent discussions with the food industry or representations on the provision of nutritional information on food labels. The Government are considering a number of schemes at the moment. It is important that people have nutritional information on the pack of food they buy, so that they can make good choices about what they eat.

We will be having discussions with Ministers across government as we develop our public health proposals.

Officials regularly meet with food manufacturers, retailers and trade organisations to discuss a range of public health issues. This includes discussion about nutritional labelling.

Health Visitors: Waltham Forest

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the health of residents of the London borough of Waltham Forest of implementing his proposed increase in the number of health visitors; and when he expects to allocate funding to support such an increase. [6544]

Anne Milton: Growing numbers of health visitors will mean extra support for children and families, especially at the start of life. The coalition agreement has made a commitment to increasing the number of health visitors.

Hospitals: Consultants

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on ending the system of merit awards to NHS consultants; and if he will make a statement. [6421]

Mr Simon Burns: From 2004, clinical excellence awards were made as a replacement for distinction awards. We are looking at these payments in the context of the Government's approach to public sector pay.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS paid in merit awards to consultants in the last 12 months. [6422]

Mr Simon Burns: From 2004, clinical excellence awards were made as a replacement for distinction awards.

For the financial year 2009-10, the national health service paid £202.2 million to consultants for national clinical excellence awards and distinction awards.

We are looking at this type of payment in the context of the Government's approach to public sector pay.

Notes:

1. The information above does not include information on local clinical excellence awards (employer based awards) which are paid by trusts.

2. The information above does not include national clinical excellence awards that are paid from central funds to consultants holding a NHS contract and employed in the Department or arms length bodies.

Hospitals: Food

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to ban the sale of *(a)* tea and coffee with sugar and *(b)* cheddar cheese sandwiches in hospitals. [5340]

Anne Milton: No.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust on the case of Mrs Rose Gibb. [5408]

Mr Simon Burns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust on the case of Mrs Rose Gibb.

Mental Health Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to prevent people developing mental health problems. [6677]

Mr Burstow: We have already pledged £70 million in the current financial year to support the expansion of psychological therapies and are actively considering how best to make further progress. The focus will in particular be on services that, when delivered early, can help to minimise the severity of mental illness and help people move to recovery.

More generally, the national health service will be backed with increased real resources, although we recognise that there are still efficiencies to be made. However, we intend to make sure front-line services in the NHS as a whole are protected from cuts.

We also recognise the importance of promoting good public health and preventing ill-health. Mental illness is common, often debilitating, and closely linked to physical illness. Understanding and addressing the causes of mental ill-health will be central to our plans for public health.

NHS: ICT

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the Connecting for Health programme. [6108]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Programme for Information Technology (NPfIT) is currently forecast to cost some £12.052 billion to 2015-16. This figure derives from a 2008 National Audit Office estimate based on the then existing contracted costs and forecast central costs, at 2004-05 prices, adjusted to take account of £600 million of savings announced by the previous Government.

We will be revisiting NPfIT expenditure plans in the context of the forthcoming spending review.

NHS: Social Responsibility

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of the current NHS corporate social responsibility settlement has been transferred to social care. [5957]

Mr Burstow: We understand the hon. Member is referring to the comprehensive spending review settlement. As set out in our latest Departmental Report (table A.2), transfers between the national health service and personal social services within the 2007 comprehensive spending review settlement are: £167 million in 2008-09,

£272 million in 2009-10, and £250 million in 2010-11. This represents 0.18%, 0.28% and 0.24% of the overall current NHS net revenue settlement.

NHS: Standards

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 699, on NHS targets, if he will publish the representations on NHS targets he has received in the last seven weeks. [5830]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has received correspondence from hon. Members and the public about national health service targets and waiting times.

The Department does not routinely publish individual responses to correspondence as these may contain personal details, publication of which could lead to distress to the individuals concerned.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department will publish information on whether the quality measures for stroke, dementia and blood clots are met. [6292]

Mr Simon Burns: Quality standards are advice from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on high quality care. The first three quality standards for dementia, stroke and the prevention of venous thromboembolism were published on 30 June. Quality standards set out the structures and processes that the evidence suggests are most likely to deliver high quality care. The measures that accompany each of the statements within a quality standard support local monitoring, for example by commissioners.

Although some of the data underpinning the measures may be published as part of national data collections, our focus as a Government is on measuring the outcomes of the treatment and care provided to patients rather than processes involved. We intend to set out our vision for an outcomes framework for the national health service shortly.

NHS: Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many temporary staff are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS. [5488]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last full year, an average of 58.3 full-time equivalent temporary civil servants and an average of 865.8 full-time equivalent temporary workers (agency staff and contractors) worked in the Department.

For the national health service the workforce census does not distinguish staff by type of contract. However numbers of bank nursing staff can be shown. The bank staff figures exclude doctors and all other non-medical staff.

The total bank nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England NHS hospital and community health services as at 30 September 2009 was 66,693.

Obesity

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the cost to the economy of illness, economic inactivity and premature death associated with overweight and obesity; what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with Ministerial colleagues on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [5400]

Anne Milton: In 2007, the Foresight team which is part of the Government Office for Science published 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices'. The Foresight team estimated the cost of obesity and overweight to the national health service to be £4.2 billion per year. The cost to the economy was estimated to be £16 billion per year.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the rate of *(a)* obesity and *(b)* smoking among (i) males and (ii) females in each age group (A) in Southend, (B) in each borough in Essex, (C) in the Metropolitan Police area of London and (D) nationally. [5401]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the percentage of obese adults aged 16 and over in England is available in the 'Health Survey for England—2008 trend tables', Adult trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for adults (Men and Women) aged 16 and over in England for the years 1993 to 2008. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

The proportion of adults aged 16 and over recorded as obese by strategic health authority area for 2008 is available in Table 7.3 on page 194 of the 'Health Survey for England—2008: physical activity and fitness'. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Information on prevalence of cigarette smoking by sex, country, and Government Office Region of England is contained within Table 1.11 of the General Lifestyle Survey 'Smoking and Drinking among adults, 2008', published by the Office for National Statistics. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Obesity: Children

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made in the number of children in each age group who were classified as *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese (i) in Southend, (ii) in each borough in (A) Essex and (B) Kent, (iii) the Metropolitan Police area of London and (iv) nationally in each of the last five years. [5463]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the percentage of overweight and obese children in England is available in the "Health Survey for England—2008 trend tables", child trend tables, table 4. Information is provided for children aged two to 15 in England for the years 1995 to 2008. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Information on the proportion of children aged two to 15 recorded as overweight and obese by strategic health authority area is available for 2008 in table 13.3 (P327) of the "Health Survey for England—2008: Physical activity and Fitness report". This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Further information on the proportion of children who are overweight and obese in England is collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Table A and table B of the following reports—"National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2008/09 School Year"; "National Child Measurement Programme 2007/08 School Year, Headline Results"; and "National Child Measurement Programme: 2006/07 School Year, Headline Results" show the prevalence of overweight and obese children aged four to five years and 10 to 11 years by primary care trust, and strategic health authority area. Copies of the publications have already been placed in the Library.

Smoking

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has made an assessment of whether the introduction of the smoking ban in July 2007 affected the incidence of smoking in homes in the presence of children; [5466]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the smoking ban on public houses and private members' clubs; [5467]

(3) what plans he has to review the smoking ban; and what public consultation will be held as part of that review. [5468]

Anne Milton: From July 2007 and the implementation of smoke-free legislation, there has been consistently high rates of compliance and public support. Opinion surveys suggest that over eight in 10 people are in support of the law.

According to the Office for National Statistics publication 'Smoking-related Behaviours and Attitudes' in 2008-09, 69% of people said that smoking was not allowed at all in their home, since 2006 when 61% of people said this. A copy of this publication has already been placed in the Library. Research evidence from England and internationally also demonstrates that smoke-free legislation is effective in reducing exposure to second hand smoke (SHS) in adults and in children, and that there is no significant evidence that introducing smoke-free legislation for public places displaces smoking into the home.

Research evidence has shown that bar workers' exposure to SHS has reduced substantially and that the health of these workers has improved. (Semple, S. et al. (2010). 'UK smoke-free legislation: changes in PM 2.5 concentrations in bars in Scotland, England and Wales' in *Ann. Occup. Hyg.*, 54, 3, pp.272-280).

The Government currently have no plans to review the legislation.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and *(b)* public health organisations on the NICE recommendation that smoking in (i) cars and (ii) public areas used by children and young people under the age of 18 be prohibited. [5924]

Anne Milton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not made a recommendation that smoking be prohibited in these circumstances. Therefore, no discussions have taken place.

On 23 June 2010, NICE published public health guidance titled 'How to stop smoking in pregnancy and following childbirth'. For partners and others in the household who smoke, the guidance recommends not smoking around the pregnant woman, mother or baby. This includes not smoking in the house or car (recommendation 7). The NICE publication is available on the internet at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH26

Smoking: Young People

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research into the causes of smoking in young people his Department has evaluated; and if he will make a statement. [5492]

Anne Milton: Smoking by young people is a serious public health problem, and the Department keeps published research in this area under review.

In 2009, the Public Health Research Consortium (PHRC) published "A Review of Young People and Smoking in England". The PHRC reported that becoming a smoker is influenced by a range of factors at an individual, family, social, community and societal level. Young people are most at risk of becoming smokers if they grow up and move in social networks where smoking is accepted and perceived to have positive value within social relationships.

The PHRC report is available on the internet at:

www.york.ac.uk/phrc/papers.htm

We are currently considering how best to tackle this issue in the context of our focus on public health, and our priorities given the challenges facing public sector finances.

Social Services: Manpower

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely number of social workers that will be employed in the UK in 2010. [6514]

Mr Burstow: It is estimated that there are 79,000 social workers employed in England currently. The Department does not estimate the likely number of social workers that will be employed in the United Kingdom. It is for local social care employers to determine the number of social workers they need to employ in order to deliver the appropriate services in their community.

Treatment Centres

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of independent sector treatment centres' exclusion criteria on NHS teaching hospitals within the same or a neighbourhood NHS trust. [6030]

Mr Simon Burns: There has been no formal assessment of the effects of independent sector treatment centres' (ISTC) exclusion criteria on national health service teaching hospitals within the same or a neighbouring NHS trust.

Trainee clinical professionals are able to undertake training at ISTCs as part of their training placement circuit. Independent sector organisations hosting training are subject to the same audit by relevant bodies as other NHS organisations.

Under Wave One of the ISTC programme, junior doctor training was only required where the case mix involved transferred activity. Under phase two of the ISTC programme, ISTCs provide new training opportunities across the entire clinical pathway, as appropriate to the case mix, for all clinical staff including junior doctors.

Training is assessed and agreed with ISTC providers by the relevant Deanery and educational institutions. Deaneries ensure that ISTC providers meet all of the accreditation requirements of the Post-graduate Medical Education Training Board (PMETB) and non-medical professional regulatory bodies.

Once a Deanery has approved an ISTC for educational placements, they enter into a training agreement with the respective provider. ISTCs are also represented on local education steering groups, run by their respective Deanery. These are mandatory requirements for all phase two ISTC contracts.

Tuberculosis

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve awareness of tuberculosis among *(a)* health professionals and *(b)* those most at risk. [5457]

Anne Milton: Increasing awareness of tuberculosis (TB) among health care professionals and groups most at risk of infection and providing accessible services are key factors in improving early diagnosis and treatment.

The Department is funding TB Alert (a United Kingdom charity) to work with groups most vulnerable to TB, and with primary care health professionals to help to build the capacity of local national health service organisations, the wider public sector and third sector organisations to run local awareness-raising programmes.

In addition, the Department is currently supporting a find and treat service in London to identify and treat cases of TB among people who are homeless or have other complex social needs. This service includes peer educators who raise awareness of TB among these groups and encourage them to get tested.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the amendment of Articles 9 and 10 of the framework convention on tobacco control at the forthcoming conference of the parties to that convention; and if he will make a statement. [5365]

Anne Milton: Parties to the framework convention on tobacco control (FCTC) have undertaken to implement a range of effective and evidence-based tobacco control measures set out in the treaty, as well as to protect public health policy from tobacco industry influence. The articles of the FCTC, including articles 9 and 10 on the regulation of the contents of tobacco products and the regulation of tobacco product disclosures, are not being amended.

CABINET OFFICE

Business

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the five-year survival rate of small businesses was in *(a)* Great Yarmouth constituency, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [6170]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the five year survival rate of small businesses was in (a) Great Yarmouth constituency, (b) the East of England and (c) the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [6170]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available on small enterprise five year survival in Great Yarmouth parliamentary constituency, East of England and the United Kingdom.

The count of births in 2003 and the count and percentage of five-year survival for enterprises with less than 50 employment

Geography	2003 births	Five-year survival	Five-year percentage
United Kingdom	266,525	124,160	46.6
East of England	26,105	12,815	49.1
Great Yarmouth	350	160	45.2

A small business is defined as an enterprise with less than 50 employment.

Business: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many businesses *(a)* started up and *(b)* ceased in Great Yarmouth constituency in each of the last five years. [6083]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 7 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many businesses (a) started up and (b) ceased in Great Yarmouth constituency in each of the last five years. [6083]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk. The table below contains the latest statistics available on enterprise births and deaths in Great Yarmouth parliamentary constituency, the past five years.

Enterprise births and deaths, 2004-08, Great Yarmouth parliamentary constituency

	Births	Deaths
2004	425	360
2005	375	330
2006	365	310
2007	345	300
2008	295	295

Business: Witham

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses in Witham constituency generated a turnover of *(a)* between £70,000 to £100,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [6725]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses in Witham constituency generated a turnover of (a) between £70,000 to £ 100,000 and (b) over £100,000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [6725]

Annual statistics on business counts are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at

www.statistics.gov.uk

Data are for enterprises with less than 50 employment and for the ward areas that cover the new constituency of Witham for the year 2009.

Count of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises with less than 50 employment for the area that covers the new constituency of Witham

Turnover	*Number of enterprises*
£70,000 to £99,000	610
£100,000+	2,180

Charities: Disability

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the name is of the charity which was the subject of the report of the Charity Commission inquiry published on 10 June 2010 entitled Inquiry into a Charity which supports disabled people; what the name is of *(a)* its chief executive and *(b)* each of its trustees; and which two councils made a complaint against the charity. [5036]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 30 June 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on the inquiry report we published on 10 June 2010, in which we did not disclose the name of the charity involved or its chief executive, trustees or the complainants.

As you may know, the Charity Commission has powers to open a statutory inquiry under Section 8 of the Charities Act 1993. We only use these powers in the most serious of cases, instead dealing with most complaints and concerns through working with charity trustees to rectify problems and put charities back on the right track. For reasons of transparency and accountability, and in order to disseminate "lessons learnt" to the wider sector, it is our usual and established policy to publish a report at the conclusion of a statutory inquiry.

In the case in question, the legal advice was clear that, as a public body, the Commission's obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 prevent us from being able to disclose the identity of the charity or those connected to it. Regretfully, I cannot, therefore, answer your question directly. The decision not to name the charity is not in any way to absolve the trustees of any responsibility and, as you would expect, we continue to monitor the situation carefully. Although this is not the first time we have decided not to identify a charity we have investigated, I should emphasise just how exceptional it is for us to take this step.

I hope this helps to explain our position. If you would like to discuss this further our Director of Legal Services and Compliance, Kenneth Dibble, would be happy to do so. Do contact my office to make arrangements.

I hope this is helpful.

Civil Servants: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make an assessment of the merits of relocating central Government jobs to Great Yarmouth. [4717]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

No such assessment has been made.

The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Civil Servants: Networking

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on the attendance of civil servants at *(a)* the Chemistry Club, *(b)* the Climate Change Forum and *(c)* other networking events provided by private sector companies. [5217]

Mr Maude: Civil servant's attendance at events is governed by the requirements of the civil service code.

Deaths: Nutrition

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths *(a)* in Southend, *(b)* in Essex and *(c)* nationally were attributed to an individual being (i) overweight and (ii) underweight in each of the last five years. [5402]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths (a) in Southend, (b) in Essex and (c) nationally were attributed to an individual being (i) overweight and (ii) underweight in each of the last five years. (5402)

The terms 'overweight' and 'underweight' are not normally used in the registration of deaths. Consequently, figures can only be provided for deaths recorded using the medically recognised terms 'obesity' and 'malnutrition' or 'effects of hunger'. The number of deaths so recorded is unlikely to be a complete or accurate reflection of the actual numbers of deaths which result, directly or indirectly, from being overweight or underweight.

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where (i) obesity was the underlying cause of death (Table 1) or was mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor (Table 2), and where (ii) malnutrition was the underlying cause of death (Table 3) or malnutrition and effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor (Table 4), for (a) Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, (b) Essex county and (c) England and Wales, for the years 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age and cause are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

Table 1. Number of deaths where obesity was the underlying cause of death, Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, and England and Wales, 2005 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

			Deaths (persons)
	Southend-on-Sea	*Essex*	*England and Wales*
2005	0	7	232
2006	0	4	261
2007	0	6	262
2008	0	13	337
2009	0	10	324

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (obesity).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.
[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[5] Figures for deaths registered in 2009 are provisional.

Table 2. Number of deaths where obesity was mentioned on the death certificate, Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, and England and Wales, 2005 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

			Deaths (persons)
	Southend-on-Sea	*Essex*	*England and Wales*
2005	2	22	993
2006	0	23	1,150
2007	1	38	1,203
2008	0	54	1,479
2009	2	38	1,672

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code E66 (obesity). Deaths were included where this cause was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor. Figures in Table 1 are therefore included in the figures in Table 2.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.
[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[5] Figures for deaths registered in 2009 are provisional.

Table 3. Number of deaths where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death, Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, and England and Wales, 2005 to 2000[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

			Deaths (persons)
	Southend-on-Sea	*Essex*	*England and Wales*
2005	0	0	61
2006	0	1	75
2007	0	3	79
2008	0	1	67
2009	0	1	82

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.
[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[5] Figures for deaths registered in 2009 are provisional.

Table 4. Number of deaths where malnutrition and effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, Southend-on-Sea unitary authority, Essex county, and England and Wales, 2005 to 2009[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

			Deaths (persons)
	Southend-on-Sea	*Essex*	*England and Wales*
2005	0	1	280
2006	0	7	344
2007	0	12	353
2008	0	7	382
2009	2	6	375

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger). Deaths were included where these causes were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, either as the underlying cause or as a contributory factor. Effects of hunger is only ever recorded as a contributory factor. Figures in Table 3 are therefore included in the figures in Table 4.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.
[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[5] Figures for deaths registered in 2009 are provisional.

Departmental Directors

Mr Carswell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many candidates for the role of lead non-executive director his Department considered; and whether the role was *(a)* open to competition and *(b)* advertised; [6410]

(2) if he will publish the advice he received from the Cabinet Secretary on the process of appointment of the Government's lead non-executive director; [6411]

(3) what the *(a)* statutory and *(b)* prerogative basis is (i) for its appointment of a lead non-executive director for Government and (ii) the provision of advice to Ministers on the appointment of such directors to enhance boards of Government Departments; [6495]

(4) what criteria his Department used to determine the *(a)* qualities and *(b)* competencies required of the Government's lead non-executive director. [6499]

Mr Maude: The appointment of Lord Browne is a personal, non-statutory ministerial appointment made by the Minister for the Cabinet Office following interview by the Cabinet Secretary and Minister for the Cabinet Office. Lord Browne has been appointed on the basis of his long standing business experience. The appointment is unpaid and was not subject to open competition. .

Departmental Internet

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will place in the Library a copy of the tender document in respect of the Your Freedom website; how many companies tendered to build the website; and if he will make a statement. [6540]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* I have been asked to reply

The Your Freedom web project was commissioned through a single tender action using the Central Office of Information framework. This was because of the tight deadlines involved. There is no requirement to produce tender documentation for a single tender procurement.

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in his Department have been allocated to work on the Your Freedom project; and on what date he expects the project to be completed. [6541]

The Deputy Prime Minister *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

Ten staff from the strategic communications, press office, digital and policy teams have worked on the Your Freedom project. None of these staff worked on the project full-time and no new staff have been recruited. The project is on going.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5979]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office has recorded one BlackBerry and one mobile phone reported as either lost or stolen in the last 12 months. The estimated cost of their replacement is £475.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5725]

Mr Maude: As at 30 June 2010, the Cabinet Office is responsible for 11 small advisory non-departmental public bodies and two executive bodies.

The head office addresses for the Non-Departmental Public Bodies are as shown in the following table:

Name of NDPB	*Address of Head Office*
Executive NDPBs	
Capacitybuilders Commission for the Compact	77 Paradise Circus, Queensway, Birmingham B1 2DT
Advisory NDPBs	
Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (ACOBA)	3rd Floor, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ
Civil Service Appeal Board (CSAB)	Room G32, 22 Whitehall London SW1H 2WH
Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL)	35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ
House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC)	
Main Honours Advisory Committee	Honours and Appointments Secretariat, Cabinet Office, Admiralty Arch (South Side) London SW1A 2WH
Office for the Civil Society Advisory Body	Office for Civil Society 2nd Floor Admiralty Arch (South Side) London SW1A 2WH
Security Commission Security Vetting Appeals Panel	Room 2.42, Ripley Building, 26 Whitehall, London SW1A 2WH
Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB)	Office of Manpower Economics, 6th Floor, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW
Boundary Commission for England	2nd Floor, Steel House 11 Tothill Street London SW1H 9LJ
Boundary Commission for Wales	Caradog House 1-6 St Andrews Place Cardiff CF10 3BE

Employment: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Great Yarmouth constituency are employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [5936]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Great Yarmouth constituency are employed in (a) public and (b) private sector. (5936)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Individuals are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the APS. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in the National Accounts.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. For the twelve month period January to December 2009 it is estimated there were 33,000 people employed in the private sector in Great Yarmouth parliamentary constituency, however estimates for the number of people employed in the public sector are not considered reliable for statistical purposes.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Jobseeker's Allowance: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the claimant count in Great Yarmouth constituency was on the most recent date for which figures are available. [6208]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the claimant count in Great Yarmouth constituency was on the most recent date for which figures are available. (6208).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

There were 3,112 people resident in the Great Yarmouth constituency claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in May 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Lone Parents

Ann McKechin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [5997]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 7 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in (a) Glasgow North and (b) Ealing Central and Acton constituencies. (5997)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The table below shows the latest available figures which are for 2008 on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries. Data are provided for:

(a) Glasgow North - boundaries unchanged since 2008, and

(b) Ealing, Acton and Shepherds Bush - this contained 12 electoral wards in 2008, four more than the current parliamentary constituency for Ealing Central and Acton. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the lone parent families.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families-with at least one child under 16 (thousands)*
Glasgow North constituency (current)	2
Haling, Acton and Shepherds Bush constituency (2008)	5
Ealing Central and Acton constituency (current)	n/a

n/a = not available.
Source:
APS January to December 2008

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency. [6012]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 7 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in (a) Slough, (b) Salisbury and (c) Scarborough and Whitby constituencies. (6012)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The table below shows the latest available figures which are for 2008 on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries. Data are provided for:

(a) Slough - boundaries unchanged since 2008,

(b) Salisbury - this contained 27 electoral wards in 2008, six more than the current parliamentary constituency for Salisbury. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the lone parent families, and

(c) Scarborough and Whitby - boundaries unchanged since 2008.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families-with at least one child under 16 (thousands)*
Slough constituency (current)	3
Salisbury constituency (current)	n/a
Salisbury constituency (2008)	2
Scarborough and Whitby constituency (current)	2

n/a = not available.
Source:
APS January to December 2008

Lone Parents: Ashton-in-Makerfield

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Makerfield constituency. [6200]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Makerfield constituency. (6200)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The table below shows the latest available figures which are for 2008 on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries. Makerfield as constituted in 2008 comprised 13 electoral wards, five more than the current constituency. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the lone parent families.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 (thousand)*
Makerfield constituency (current)	n/a
Makerfield constituency (2008)	2

n/a = not available
Source:
APS January to December 2008

Lone Parents: Worsley

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. [6139]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. (6139)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The table below shows the latest available figures which are for 2008 on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries. Data are provided for the two separate parliamentary constituencies ('Worsley' and 'Eccles') as constituted in 2008. These two combined are substantially larger than the current parliamentary constituency ('Worsley and Eccles South'). The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the lone parent families.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families-with at least one child under 16 (thousand)*
Worsley and Eccles South constituency (current)	n/a
Worsley constituency (2008)	3
Eccles constituency (2008)	4

n/a = not available

Source:

APS January to December 2008

Migration

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate his Department has made of the volume of population growth *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly attributable to migration in each year since 1990. [5300]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the volume of population growth (a) directly and (b) indirectly attributable to migration in each year since 1990 (5300).

(a) Table 1 shows the volume of UK population growth directly attributable to migration in each year since mid-1990.

(b) ONS does not have the necessary information to provide an estimate of the volume of population growth indirectly attributable to migration.

Table 1: Population change due to net migration and other changes, UK, mid-1990 to mid-2009

Year	*Net migration and other changes*
1990-91	47,800
1991-92	-11,400
1992-93	500
1993-94	36,000
1994-95	55,800
1995-96	62,200
1996-97	47,000
1997-98	60,300
1998-99	132,800
1999-2000	139,300
2000-01	153,200
2001-02	143,300
2002-03	156,500
2003-04	185,700
2004-05	266,800
2005-06	190,100
2006-07	214,400
2007-08	192,100
2008-09	177,200

Note:

'Other changes' includes changes in the population due to changes in the number of armed forces (both foreign and home) and their dependents resident in the UK.

Sources:

Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

National Citizen Service

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the planned implementation date is of the pilot of the national citizen service for 16-year-olds. [5883]

Mr Hurd: Full details of this programme will be announced by the Cabinet Office later this year, with a launch expected in 2011.

New Businesses

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have been started in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* West Cheshire and Chester unitary authority, *(c)* Halton borough council, *(d)* the North West and *(e)* the UK in each year since 1997. [6281]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

he information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated 7 July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many new businesses have been started in (a) Weaver Vale constituency, (b) West Cheshire and Chester Unitary Authority, (c) Halton Borough Council, (d) the North West and (e) the UK in each year since 1997. [6281]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at www.statistics.gov.uk from 2002 onwards. The table below contains the latest statistics available on enterprise births in a) Weaver Vale constituency, (b) West Cheshire and Chester Unitary Authority, (c) Halton Borough Council, (d) the North West and (e) the UK in each year since 2002.

Enterprise births from 2002-08

	Weaver Vale constituency	*West Cheshire and Chester UA*	*Halton UA*	*North West*	*United Kingdom*
2002	285	1,200	290	24,625	242,540
2003	330	1,355	345	27,225	267,000
2004	325	1,300	360	28,845	280,080
2005	375	1,490	400	29,220	274,855

Enterprise births from 2002-08

	Weaver Vale constituency	*West Cheshire and Chester UA*	*Halton UA*	*North West*	*United Kingdom*
2006	330	1,425	380	27,265	255,530
2007	375	1,650	445	30,190	280,730
2008	375	1,600	425	27,650	270,215

New Businesses: Greater London

Nick de Bois: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many new businesses have been started in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(c)* Enfield North constituency in each year since 2005. [5592]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many new businesses have been started in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London Borough of Enfield and *(c)* Enfield North constituency in each year since 2005. [5592]

Annual statistics on business births, deaths and survival are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at

www.statistics.gov.uk.

The table below contains the latest statistics available on enterprise births in Enfield North parliamentary constituency, the London Borough of Enfield and London over the past four years.

The count of enterprise births from 2005-08 in Enfield North parliamentary constituency, the London borough of Enfield and London

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Enfield North	405	410	360	485
Enfield	1,380	1,385	1,285	1,440
London	51,285	47,890	53,120	59,100

Public Bodies Bill

John Healey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials of his Department are working on preparations for the Public Bodies Bill. [5112]

Mr Maude: Within the Cabinet Office, 3.5 whole-time equivalent officials are involved in preparations for the Public Bodies Bill.

Well-being

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to *(a)* promote and *(b)* measure general well-being during the current Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [6676]

Mr Maude: Within the civil service health and well-being is one of our corporate priorities. The Cabinet Office is working with other Government Departments to promote health and well-being at work and has published a cross Civil Service Health and Wellbeing Framework that is available to all Departments via the Civil Pages.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 8 July 2010

WALES

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of her Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6113]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. Since that time we have not organised any conferences or committed any expenditure to attending conferences.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dudley North of 9 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 145W, on departmental official cars, what changes are being made to the allocation of cars for the use of each Minister in her Department. [6547]

Mr David Jones: Since taking office we have cancelled the car contracted for my use in London, thereby halving this Department's previous number of ministerial cars in London. We are currently looking at value for money options for the car used by myself and the Secretary of State in Wales.

Employment: Location

Jacob Rees-Mogg: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken any research on the effect of Welsh Development Agency grants on the movement of jobs from (i) England and (ii) North East Somerset to Wales; and if she will make a statement. [6578]

Mr David Jones: No.

The Welsh Development Agency was abolished on 1 April 2006 and its functions were absorbed into the Welsh Assembly Government.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present Administration. [6459]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has spent a total of £204 on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the Government.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7143]

Mr Paterson: Following devolution, much of the regulatory framework in Northern Ireland is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive. The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) is not currently reviewing any regulations within its own area of responsibility.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the expenditure of his Department on *(a)* organising and *(b)* attending conferences in each year since 1997. [5940]

John Penrose: The Department's recorded costs on organising conferences for each financial year can be found in the following table:

Financial year	£
1997-98	230,143
1998-99	79,913
1999-00	51,576
2000-01	68,156
2001-02	41,808
2002-03	49,806
2003-04	69,920
2004-05	79,360
2005-06	170,277
2006-07	231,218
2007-08	158,185
2008-09	92,149
2009-10	54,674

Costs include conference venue hire, hospitality for delegates and fees and travel costs for speakers. The substantial increase in expenditure in 2005-06 and subsequent years was predominantly associated with major conferences arranged with stakeholders following the award of the 2012 Olympics.

The information requested in part *(b)* of the question could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equal Opportunities

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5920]

John Penrose: The total costs on promoting equality and diversity are not held centrally. In each of the last three years, the number of staff working in the Department on diversity and equality as part of their job description and their cost is set out in the following table. Staff costs have been calculated by using the percentage of time staff have spent on equality and diversity:

	Total number of staff	*Staff costs (£)*
2007-08	5	57,869
2008-09	5	58,796
2009-10	4	35,400

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: ITV

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to each ITV region under the Digital Switchover Help Scheme to date. [6661]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A total of £603 million was ring-fenced from the BBC licence fee to fund the Digital Switchover Help Scheme. The breakdown of the £603 million by ITV region is set out in the table. The Channel Islands was not included in the allocations outlined in the table because the original intention was for them to switch in 2013, which is outside the current licence fee settlement. The Channel Islands switchover date was brought forward but it was decided that there was sufficient money available within the £603 million to meet the cost.

Breakdown of the Help Scheme cost by ITV region

ITV region	*Cost (£)*
Admin start-up	25,000,000
Whitehaven (exceptional start-up)	300,000
Whitehaven	664,627
Border (excluding Isle of Man and Whitehaven)	5,911,541
Isle of Man	452,242
West Country	19,144,986
Wales	34,432,539
Granada	68,879,287
West	14,943,954
STV North	11,010,670
STV Central	38,707,095
Yorkshire	50,941,241
Anglia	43,670,485
Central	83,879,506
Meridian	51,250,945
London	75,416,580
Tyne Tees	28,882,333
Ulster	21,039,653
Aftercare[1]	28,380,595
Total	602,908,280

[1] Aftercare is the money set aside to provide ongoing assistance to eligible people up to one year after the region has switched.

Listed Buildings

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many listed buildings have been demolished in the last 12 months. [5748]

John Penrose: The Department does not hold this information.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to renew the listed places of worship grant scheme on its expiry in 2011. [5880]

Mr Vaizey: The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) scheme, which makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings in use as places of worship, is expected to make grants of around £15 million UK-wide in 2010-11. I acknowledge the scheme's significant role in helping to keep our listed ecclesiastical buildings in a good state of repair. A decision on the scheme's future beyond the end of 2010-11 can be made only as part of the 2010 spending review, and will be publicised as soon as is possible.

National Lottery: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much each lottery funding distributor has allocated to projects located in Bassetlaw in each of the last four years. [6630]

John Penrose: The amounts of lottery funding distributed in the constituency of Bassetlaw by the various lottery distributors in the last four financial years are shown in the table:

£

Bassetlaw	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Arts Council England	137,263	13,716	19,367	78,400	248,746
Sport England	0	0	248,835	9,507	258,342
Big Lottery Fund[1]	535,198	1,394,783	105,453	165,632	2,201,066
Heritage Lottery Fund	15,300	0	2,202,800	22,700	2,240,800
Total	687,761	1,408,499	2,576,455	276,239	4,948,954

[1] These figures and those quoted for the Awards for All joint scheme are supplied by the Big Lottery Fund.

In addition, the Bassetlaw constituency benefited during financial years 2006-07 to 2009-10 inclusive, from grants of £311,581 made under the Awards for All (England) scheme, which was delivered by the Big Lottery Fund prior to April 2009 and funded by Big Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. Since April 2009 Awards for All has been delivered and solely by the Big Lottery Fund.

The statistics for Arts Council England, Sport England and the Heritage Lottery Fund come from the Department's lottery grants database. The database is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

and uses information on lottery grants supplied by the lottery distributors.

Olympic Games 2012: Business

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to inform businesses of the opportunities available in supplying products and services to the London 2012 Olympics. [6663]

Hugh Robertson: The Government and its partners are absolutely committed to making the tens of thousands of direct and supply chain contract opportunities generated by the games accessible to a diverse range of businesses across the UK.

The London 2012 Business Network is helping businesses across the UK to access games-related opportunities and the support they need to compete for them through CompeteFor, the groundbreaking electronic brokerage service for buyers and suppliers in London 2012's supply chains. Over 6,500 contracts have been opened up through CompeteFor to date. CompeteFor is directly linked to business support services, including Business Link in the English regions and its equivalents in the devolved Administrations. Over 45,000 businesses have received support as a result of registering on CompeteFor to date, helping to leave a legacy of fitter businesses.

This has been accompanied by an extensive programme of business engagement. Through a series of events across the UK, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has spoken to over 10,000 businesses, informing them of the opportunities and how to get involved, including a two-day visit to the east midlands by the ODA chairman in April this year. The regions and devolved Administrations have held over 400 games-themed events over last year, informing business about support services that can help them 'get fit' to compete for games-related and other contracts.

Olympic Games 2012: East Midlands

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many businesses based in the east midlands have been awarded contracts for work on the London 2012 Olympics site construction projects. [6664]

Hugh Robertson: To date, 41 business registered in the east midlands region have been awarded contracts directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), including one business based in the Erewash constituency.

Many more businesses in the region are winning contracts in the supply chains of the ODA's contractors. For example, a business based in Derbyshire won a significant contract to supply concrete parapets and deck planks to more than 10 new bridges in the Olympic Park; and a company from Thurmaston won a contract to supply roof cladding for the Aquatics Centre. More information is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

http://www.london2012.com/business

6,275 companies from the region have registered on CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service enabling businesses to compete for direct and supply chain Olympic-related opportunities and business support. More than 6,500 contracts have been opened up through CompeteFor to date.

In January this year the London Organising Committee the Olympic and Paralympic Games began in earnest its procurement for everything it needs to stage a successful Games, which will generate many more opportunities for businesses across a range of sectors.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what arrangements are being made to transport by road participants and others in the period of the London 2012 Olympics; how many volunteer drivers will be used; what training and qualifications they will be required to have; and if he will make a statement. [6278]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will put in place an Olympic Route Network (ORN) which will enable athletes, officials and media working at the games to get to their events on time, although many will also want to use the public transport system. A consultation on the proposed ORN interventions will begin in late summer 2010. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) will run a fleet of buses and coaches to transport athletes to their events. As a commercial partner for the games, BMW will also provide around 4,000 vehicles to transport athletes, officials, media and others working at the games.

LOCOG's London 2012 volunteer programme will be launched this summer, and it is working now on the numbers of volunteers required for each of the roles. Drivers will need to hold a valid driving licence and meet the requirements set by insurance and vehicle hire agreements. All volunteers will be trained, with drivers receiving training specific to their role and the venue or venues they will be working at. This will include, among other things, route training, fuel efficient driving and customer service.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to respond to the Committee on Climate Change's advice on the 2050 carbon dioxide emissions target for aviation. [4975]

Mrs Villiers: We are committed to reducing emissions from transport and to ensuring we have the right framework in place for aviation to contribute to the UK's climate stabilisation goals. We will consider the detail of policy and announce our conclusions on the best way to achieve our aims in due course.

Bus Lanes

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department provides to local transport authorities on the provision of bus lanes; whether that guidance covers the minimum length of bus lanes; and if he will make a statement. [7021]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport provides advice on bus priority measures, including bus lanes, in Local Transport Note 1/97: Keeping Buses Moving. Advice on the use of the appropriate traffic signs and road markings is given in Chapters 3 and 5 of the Traffic Signs Manual. These documents are available on the Department's website. There is no minimum length requirement for a bus lane.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5972]

Norman Baker: The figure provided here is for all items recorded as lost or stolen in the last 12 months and is for the entire Department for Transport including its agencies and shared service centre. The figures provided do not include thefts where records are not available centrally or such thefts that were not reported. While some of this information may exist in records held locally within the central Department and the agencies it can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

The property recorded as lost and stolen in the last 12 months is as follows, and where we have the estimated replacement costs, this is shown alongside.

Item	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Total estimate cost of replacement (£)*
BlackBerrys	17	8	5,875
Laptops		22	22,902
USB iron key	3	1	220
Encryption tokens	9	1	300
BlackBerry chargers	3	—	36
PC		2	1,600
Mobile phones	28	4	[1]—
Dial fobs	3	—	[1]—
Other IT equipment	7	5	[1]—
Sat-nav	1	—	80
ARVL VED licences	20	—	0
Personal items (such as jewellery and cash)	38	7	[1]—
Non personal items	10	4	[1]—

[1] Unavailable.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3196]

Mike Penning: As was the case under previous Governments, all civil servants and special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the major projects previously earmarked for £434.7 million capital grant that will now be subject to the removal of ring-fencing in 2010-11. [2963]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 17 June 2010]:* The local authority major projects for which the Department for Transport will be paying capital grant in 2010-11 are listed, with the grant recipient body shown. We will discuss with the relevant local authorities the grant arrangements for major projects in 2010-11.

A1073 Spalding to Eye Improvement Scheme (Lincolnshire)
A13/A130 Sadlers Farm Junction Improvements (Essex)
A34 Alderley Edge & Nether Alderley Bypass (Cheshire East)
A386 Northern Corridor Major Public Transport Scheme (Plymouth)
A41 Expressway/A4031 All Saints Way Junction Improvement (Sandwell)
A4123/A461 Burnt Tree Junction (Dudley)
A638 Quality Bus Corridor (Doncaster)
A65 Quality Bus Initiative (Leeds)
Baldock Bypass (Hertfordshire)
Birmingham International Airport/National Exhibition Centre Integrated Transport Access scheme (Solihull)
Birmingham Gateway (New Street Station) (Birmingham)
Blackpool And Fleetwood Tramway Upgrade (Blackpool)
Bridlington Integrated Transport Plan (East Riding)
Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network (Dudley)
Connecting Derby (Derby)
Cudworth and West Green Bypass (Barnsley)
East Kent Access Phase 2 (Kent)
Edge Lane Eastern Approaches (Liverpool)
Greater Bristol Bus Network (South Gloucestershire)
Greater Manchester Highway Retaining Walls Maintenance Scheme (Stockport)
Greater Manchester Urban Traffic Control (GMITA)
Hall Lane Strategic Gateway (Liverpool)
Hemsworth to A1 Link Road (Wakefield)
Kirklees Bridge Strengthening and Maintenance (Kirklees)
Leeds Inner Ring Road Stage 7 (Leeds)
Luton Dunstable Busway (Luton)
M4 Junction 11 and Mereoak Junction (Reading)
Manchester Metrolink Ashton and East Didsbury extensions (GMITA)
Manchester Metrolink Phase 3a (GMITA)
Metro Ticketing And Gating (Nexus)
Nuneaton Development Project (Warwickshire)
Owen Street Level Crossing Relief Road (Sandwell)
Poole Bridge Regeneration Initiative (Poole)
Selly Oak New Road (Birmingham)
Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road (Kent)
Taunton Third Way (Somerset)
Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements (Middlesbrough)
Walsall Town Centre Transport Package (Walsall)
West Midlands Red Routes Package 1 (Wolverhampton)
West Midlands Urban Traffic Control (Wolverhampton)
Weymouth 2012 Package (Dorset)
Weymouth Relief Road (Dorset)
Wolverhampton Town Centre Access and Interchange (Wolverhampton).

Departmental Travel

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last travelled on public transport in an official capacity. [5815]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* I last travelled on public transport, in an official capacity, today.

Level Crossings: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the safety of level crossings in Bassetlaw constituency. [6902]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport does not make assessments of safety at level crossings. However, the Office of Rail Regulation ensures, through the level crossing order-making process and routine monitoring of Network Rail's management of safety, that the appropriate protective equipment is in place to control risks at public road crossings. Network Rail also undertakes risk assessments of every level crossing as part of its safety management processes.

The Office of Rail Regulation and the rail industry continue to work to improve safety at level crossings by addressing the root causes of accidents. It should be noted that an estimated 95% of all level crossing accidents are caused by misuse by the user.

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average waiting time to take module 1 of the motorcycle test was in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England and *(c)* Scotland in the latest period for which figures are available. [3878]

Mike Penning: At 21 June 2010, the average waiting time for module 1 motorcycle tests was *(a)* nine weeks in Wales, *(b)* three weeks in England and *(c)* two weeks in Scotland.

Passenger Focus

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to retain Passenger Focus as an independent representative of passenger interests. [4048]

Mrs Villiers: The Queen's Speech announced the Government's intention to introduce a Public Bodies (Reform) Bill. As part of the preparation for this Bill, the Department for Transport will be reviewing all of the public bodies it sponsors.

Retford Railway Station: Parking

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department has received on the adequacy of car parking capacity at Retford rail station. [6615]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received no representations on the adequacy of car parking capacity at Retford station.

Shipping: Radioactive Materials

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information he has received from *(a)* International Nuclear Services (INS) and *(b)* his Dutch counterpart on 28 canisters of vitrified high level radioactive waste from Sellafield being found on arrival on the INS nuclear transport ship Atlantic Osprey in Vlissingen in March to be out of position within the holding channels of the transport flask; and if he will commission an investigation into the safety of transport of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste in UK coastal waters. [5343]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport (DFT) was informed prior to the ship's departure that the canisters had been placed in incorrect locations within the transport flask. DFT inspectors prevented the ship's sailing until the consignor and carrier had satisfied them that safety had not been compromised in any way and that the error in loading the flask did not affect its safety functions.

Sellafield Ltd is implementing corrective actions to prevent a reoccurrence which is being closely monitored by DFT inspectors. Until these corrective measures are in place there will be no further shipments of this package design.

The Dutch Competent Authority for the transport of radioactive material contacted the DFT for confirmation that the ship used was appropriate for this shipment.

The transport of radioactive material, including spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste, is governed by the stringent internationally-agreed standards recommended by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an agency appointed by the United Nations to oversee all aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy worldwide. During the period of over 45 years that the IAEA regulations have been in existence, there has been no instance of death or serious injury to persons, nor significant damage to the environment, from radiological effects caused during the transport of radioactive material worldwide by all modes of transport when properly packaged and transported in conformity with these regulations.

The sea transport of large quantities of radioactivity (such as spent nuclear fuel and high level waste) are carried out on ships that have been certified to meet the requirements of the International Code for the Safe Carriage of Packaged Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-level Radioactive Wastes on board Ships (INF Code) produced by the International Maritime Organisation as appropriate to the quantities of material transported.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which organisation has lead responsibility for overseeing the implementation of contingency plans covering nuclear transport ships in UK territorial waters that run into difficulties; [5344]

(2) what specific risk assessment matrices for incidents involving radioactive cargoes have been developed by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency; [5345]

(3) what expertise is available to the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency to draw up contingency plans covering nuclear transport ships in UK territorial waters which run into difficulties at sea; [5346]

(4) what emergency planning exercises involving *(a)* UK ports and *(b)* coastal local authorities with scenarios involving ships with radioactive materials cargoes that find themselves in distress in UK territorial waters needing emergency port facilities have taken place in the last 10 years; [5347]

(5) what restrictions are placed on ships carrying radioactive cargoes in the English Channel in respect of the distance they must remain from shore; and what

notification is given to local authorities on the English south coast that ships carrying radioactive materials are sailing through the English Channel; [5348]

(6) what expertise is available to the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency in *(a)* counter pollution and *(b)* salvage operations in cases of a ship carrying radioactive cargo in UK territorial waters in which the cargo has to be salvaged after an accident or operational problems. [5349]

Mike Penning: Radioactive material when transported by sea must be packaged and stowed in accordance with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code). Where certain types of radioactive materials (such as spent nuclear fuel and high level waste) are carried the ships must be certified to meet the requirements of the International Code for the Safe Carriage of Packaged Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-level Radioactive Wastes on board Ships (INF Code) produced by the International Maritime Organisation as appropriate to the quantities of material transported. These regulations aside there are no specific restrictions or requirements placed on the sea transport of radioactive materials beyond the general requirements applicable to all ships and cargoes.

The responsibility for producing emergency plans for dealing with incidents on board ships lies with the organisations operating them. In the case of shipments of nuclear material on Pacific Nuclear Transport Limited and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority ships these are produced and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the IMDG and INF Codes. Their Shipboard Marine Emergency Plans are endorsed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

Emergency exercises involving these vessels are undertaken in accordance with the above codes and the International Atomic Energy Agency Safety Guide on Planning and Preparing for Emergency Response to Transport Accidents Involving Radioactive Material.

The MCA undertakes a National Contingency Plan (NCP) exercise on an annual basis. The programme of exercises involves both UK ports and local coastal authorities and each scenario is designed to cover a range of possible shipboard maritime incidents including dangerous cargoes. Although an incident with a ship carrying a nuclear cargo has not been specifically exercised, the response principles will remain the same. In the case of a nuclear incident technical support will be provided by a designated contact for the ship owner at International Nuclear Services (INS).

The MCA UK Counter Pollution and Salvage Response Team has a tiered callout procedure to any maritime incident. This applies the generic response principles found in the NCP for marine pollution from shipping and offshore installations. Within that team, the MCA duty Counter Pollution and Salvage Officer (CPSO) provides an initial assessment and incident response, alerting if necessary the Secretary of State's Representative for Salvage (SOSREP).

SOSREP and those in the MCA responsible for emergency response have demonstrated a high degree of expertise in a wide range of salvage and counter-pollution operations.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much public subsidy was paid to farmers in each constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [6901]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency does not explicitly record information on payments to farmers on a constituency basis and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Further information on recipients of CAP subsidy payments may be found at:

http://www.cap-payments.defra.gov.uk/

This website includes details of all CAP scheme payments, including the single payment scheme (SPS), made to beneficiaries during the years 16 October 2007 to 15 October 2008 and 16 October 2008 to 15 October 2009.

Departmental Water Charges

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 29W, on departmental water charges, what the reason is for the variation in water charges paid in each year; for what reasons water charges have been paid on a dormant site; and whether there have been changes to water metering *(a)* methods and *(b)* equipment at the site in the last three years. [6951]

Richard Benyon: The charges levied for the water supply to the site relate to the consumption and the standard charge for the provision of supply based on meter size, levied pro rata over the year.

DEFRA is obliged, through an agreement originally made by the Ministry of Defence to retain a water supply as it also supplies a third party which borders the site.

In August 2009, Scottish Water downsized the size of the incoming pipe which has significantly reduced the monthly standard charges.

Fisheries

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has to support the fishing industry; and if she will make a statement. [5011]

Richard Benyon: The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is the EU's instrument for the management of fisheries and aquaculture. We share the European Commission's vision for a healthy marine ecosystem that supports sustainable, profitable fisheries. Any reform should devolve fisheries management, away from current centralised control over detailed regulations, and enable fishermen to better plan for their businesses for the longer term. I am a firm supporter of genuine reform and convinced that we must grasp this opportunity in order to secure the prosperity and viability of our fishing industries in the medium term.

The Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries (SAIF) project is looking particularly at reform of inshore fisheries management within England aiming to move the English inshore fishing fleet towards a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future. The project aims to consult on proposals later this year.

Support is also available from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) which is worth over £100 million in the UK. The EFF, which runs until 2013, provides financial assistance to help implement the latest reforms to the CFP and to help the fleets of member states move towards a more sustainable future.

Incinerators

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effects of incinerators on the health of nearby residents. [6216]

Richard Benyon: The Health Protection Agency published a report of its review of the latest scientific evidence on the health effects of modern municipal waste incinerators in September 2009. The report concludes that while it is not possible to rule adverse health effects out completely, any potential damage from modern, well run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of incinerators on nearby wildlife populations. [6218]

Richard Benyon: When determining applications for environmental permits for incinerators the Environment Agency considers the effects of emissions on nearby European Habitats Directive sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, having regard to the critical levels and critical loads for air pollutants relevant to the sites. In doing so it takes advice from Natural England or the Countryside Council for Wales as appropriate.

Details of the impacts of air pollutants on the natural environment, including information on critical loads, can be found on the Government-funded Air Pollution Information System website:

www.apis.ac.uk

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in the Government Equalities Office are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3194]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) holds an account with the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) for the provision of a pool car and also for a standard taxi service.

(a) Civil servants

(i) No staff are allowed a car with a dedicated driver.

(ii) GEO staff are able to use the pool car in exceptional circumstances when this is related to ministerial activity (for example going to the airport to meet the Minister for essential business).

(iii) The standard taxi service has been used by staff very occasionally. This service has been used for short journeys where heavy goods need to be transported or where a member of staff has been taken ill in the office and transported to their home address.

(b) Special advisers

Special advisers are not entitled to any of the car or taxi services.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many of the Government Equalities Office's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3649]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office, in line with Office of Government Commerce policy, uses contracts and frameworks negotiated by other Government Departments. Any review of these contracts with suppliers will be conducted by those Departments.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many officials in the Government Equalities Office are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Office as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to the Office from such renegotiations; how much expenditure the Office will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3671]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office, in line with Office of Government Commerce policy, uses contracts and frameworks negotiated by other Government Departments. Any renegotiations of these contracts will be conducted by those Departments.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3197]

David Mundell: As was the case under previous Governments, all civil servants and special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present Administration. [6457]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has incurred no costs on official photographs since the formation of the Government.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which private security companies his Department has contracts in Afghanistan. [5757]

Nick Harvey: None.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on alleged human rights abuses involving private military and security companies in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [5758]

Dr Fox: No complaints or reports of human rights abuses have been received in connection to the activities of private security companies contracted by the Ministry of Defence in Afghanistan.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many sorties the Nimrod MR.2 has flown in Afghanistan in each year since 2001; [6309]

(2) how many sorties the Nimrod MR.2 flew in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. [6311]

Dr Fox: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ammunition

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the suitability of the M855A1 enhanced performance rounds for use with the various SA-80 variants. [6308]

Nick Harvey: While we have no plans to assess the M855A1 for use with SA-80 variants, we are conducting a research and development programme on enhanced performance rounds for future weapons system. This includes the consideration of rounds with similar design characteristics to the M855A1.

Armed Conflict: Casualties

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what process is followed for the nomination and preparation of battle casualty replacements. [6416]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* The requirement for battle casualty replacements (BCRs) is identified by the Permanent Joint Headquarters. The processes for generating BCRs, once this requirement has been confirmed, differ between the three single services. For Army and Royal Marine units BCRs are drawn from a nominated cohort based in the Unit's rear party at the home location. This cohort will have been selected and trained at the same time as the deploying unit and will be up to date on their core military skills. The exceptions to this are for some pinch point trades, where personnel are usually pulled forward from the next brigade in line to deploy; and senior officer replacements, which are generated by the relevant headquarters.

For the Royal Air Force, BCRs for formed units are drawn from the rear party at the home location. Other replacements are generated by Headquarters Air Command. If the replacement is required immediately and the gap is affecting operational effectiveness, a waiver to deploy without completing the required pre-deployment courses can be given by theatre. This has not been necessary to date.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to provide residential accommodation for injured armed service personnel with long-term care needs; and if he will make a statement. [6234]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a particular responsibility to help seriously injured and disabled service personnel, and works closely with service charities in discharging this responsibility. One of the most important requirements of seriously injured service personnel is accommodation adapted to meet their specific personal circumstances, and the MOD provides some 1,300 adapted Service Families Accommodation (SFA) which includes over 2,000 specific adaptations (such as a stair-lift or walk-in shower) for either service personnel or their dependants. Personnel will continue to receive medical treatment from the Defence Medical Services for as long as they remain in the armed forces, and ongoing welfare support is available from the chain of command; through the Army Welfare Service; and from service charities.

For service personnel who are medically discharged as a result of their injuries, and thus lose their entitlement to service accommodation, MOD welfare staff will assist as necessary in liaising with local authorities regarding provision of suitably-adapted local authority or private housing. Further, the Service Personnel Command Paper in 2008 stated that MOD would assist service personnel who wished to purchase their adapted SFA. Service personnel injured in service now have their lump sum compensation payments disregarded for purposes of the capital means test for the affordable homes schemes in England and Wales and can have them disregarded in Scotland.

This will help ensure that the most seriously injured can benefit from those schemes to get on to the housing ladder.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to improve the standard of armed forces accommodation. [6752]

Mr Robathan: We will look at whether there is scope to refurbish armed forces' accommodation from efficiencies within the Department.

Defence

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish the full terms of reference of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [6240]

Mr Letwin: I have been asked to reply.

Work has commenced on the Strategic Defence and Security Review announced in the Queen's Speech on the 25 May 2010. The review will outline the Government's approach to tackling the broad range of national security risks and will ensure that we have the right balance of resources to meet our commitments. Recent speeches by the Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary and Minister for Security at the Home Office provide greater detail on the scope. We expect to publish the outcomes of the review in the autumn.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many separate buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* elsewhere in the UK. [6892]

Mr Robathan: Built assets can vary in nature between working, living and technical structures, and other installations of various types. While the majority of these assets are separate buildings, an exact breakdown can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Our Defence Estate Development Plan and property database identifies over 500 sites in the UK, comprising over 64,000 separate built assets. Included within this figure are over 1,100 built assets on 20 sites in the Greater London area.

The London buildings include three office buildings and this number will reduce to one by 2013.

In addition, there are 41,000 Service family homes in England and Wales that are rented from Annington Homes Ltd, of which 788 are located in the London boroughs. The Department currently rents 1,245 substitute single service living accommodation properties and 41 substitute service family accommodation properties in the inner London boroughs.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff worked in his Department's ministerial support office on *(a)* 1 May 2010 and *(b)* 1 July 2010. [6153]

Dr Fox: There are seven members of staff in the ministerial support unit. This number has not changed since 1 May 2010.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present Administration. [6447]

Mr Robathan: All official portrait photographs of the new Defence Ministers were taken by Ministry of Defence (MOD) photographers. These images were used to feature new Ministers on internal and external online communications. No additional costs were incurred in producing or distributing these digital images. Hard copy photographs were produced for display boards in MOD's main building using our in-house reprographics and graphics section. The costs of materials involved in producing these hard copy photographs was £72.

Met Office: Private Sector

Mr Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have discussions with representatives of private sector businesses on the future of the Met Office. [6571]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State for Defence has not met and has no current plans to meet representatives from the private weather sector to discuss the future of the Met Office.

Piracy

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Royal Navy's role is in tackling piracy; and if he will make a statement. [5824]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Navy plays a leading role in international coalition counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia. This includes the regular provision of naval assets to operations that seek to deter and disrupt pirate activity while reassuring the shipping industry by supporting freedom of navigation for vessels transiting the region.

The Royal Navy can take robust action to come to the aid of a victim vessel under attack by pirates in international waters cognisant of the potential threat to the lives of innocents on board.

It is however recognised that military intervention alone cannot solve piracy, when the root cause is instability and poor governance in Somalia. Royal Navy vessels continue to build relationships with key regional stakeholders, while encouraging capacity building and improving the flow of information.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has contributed to the international force tasked with reducing piracy around the coast of Somalia in each of the last three years. [6790]

Nick Harvey: Since 2002 the Royal Navy has been conducting maritime security operations in the Gulf region, including around the coast of Somalia, as part of a US-led coalition—the Combined Maritime Forces (Combined Task Force 151). Following a sharp increase in piracy levels in 2008, a separate task force was created in January 2009 to focus on the deterrence of piracy in partnership with other counter piracy initiatives. The UK provides the Deputy Commander to the operation, based within the UK Maritime Component Command in Bahrain, and periodically allocates a frigate and tanker as operational priorities dictate.

In December 2008, the EU established operation ATALANTA to protect World Food Programme and other vulnerable shipping transiting through the Gulf of Aden. The UK has provided the Operation Commander and Operation Headquarters at Northwood since its inception and will continue to do so until the end of the mandate, which has recently been extended to December 2012.

The UK also provided a frigate for the first three months of the operation and will provide a warship for a period in 2011.

In July 2009, NATO set up a complementary operation, Ocean Shield, which is primarily focused on deterring and disrupting pirate activity. To date, the UK has provided a frigate for a large part of this operation, including taking command between June to November 2009 and March to July 2010. The UK also provides the NATO Maritime Component Command at Northwood.

Finally, the UK provides support on an ad hoc basis to all three counter piracy operations as military assets transit through the region. This has included warships, support vessels, and the enduring delivery of shipping advice and reassurance to the merchant community through the UK Maritime Trade Organisation.

Submarines

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many submarines were detected during Anti-submarine Warfare Exercise Noble Manta 2010 by maritime patrol aircraft type from each participating NATO nation. [6306]

Nick Harvey: During Exercise Noble Manta 2010, UK participants flew 12 sorties and detected submarines on numerous occasions. Details cannot be released as such disclosure could compromise future UK anti submarine warfare capabilities. It would be inappropriate to comment on the other participating nations' activities.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will withdraw the reservation made by his Department to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [5574]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* There are no plans to withdraw the reservation made by the Ministry of Defence to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The continuing need for the armed forces' exemption was confirmed when Parliament considered the Equality Act 2010 and I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 14 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 251W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was spent on *(a)* refreshments and *(b)* furnishings in his private office in each year from 2005 to 2010. [5621]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was formed on 3 October 2008.

Information on how much was spent on refreshments is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The cost of furnishing the newly created Ministerial Private Offices in 2009 was £21,596.22. A further £395.48 has been spent on furnishings in 2010.

All expenditure was incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Fuel Poverty

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made a recent assessment of the level of fuel poverty among cancer patients. [6744]

Gregory Barker: The detailed information as to how many people with a cancer diagnosis are living in fuel poverty is not available. People with a cancer diagnosis are classified as long-term sick and the detailed tables of the Annual Report on Fuel Poverty Statistics 2009, available online at:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath =Statistics
> \fuelpovei1y\l_20091020153255_e_@@_fuelpoverty
> 2007detai1edtables.pdf&filetype =4&minwidth=trye

show that in England in 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, there were around 1.1 million fuel-poor households containing somebody who was disabled or long-term sick.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether vulnerable cancer patients will be eligible for the proposed mandatory social tariffs for fuel bills; and if he will make a statement. [6745]

Gregory Barker: We intend to introduce social price support to replace the existing voluntary agreement when it ends in March 2011.

We are developing the detail of the policy, including who will be eligible for benefits under the scheme, and the final details will be subject to the outcome of the spending review and consultation.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his timetable is for the creation of a green investment bank. [6509]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 7 July 2010]:* Following the Spending Review, the Government will put forward detailed proposals on the creation of a green investment bank to help the UK meet the low-carbon investment challenge. A wide range of ambitious options for the scope and structure of the Green Investment Bank are under consideration.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to implement the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme in April 2011. [7264]

Gregory Barker: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Sevenoaks (Michael Fallon) on 15 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 367-68W.

Windows: Energy

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the amount of heat energy lost through windows which are not energy efficient in the latest period for which figures are available. [6288]

Gregory Barker: The most recent data from the English House Condition Survey show that in 2007, 67% of homes had full double glazing and 11% had no double glazing, with the remainder part double glazed. Moving a typical home from no double glazing to full C-rated double glazing would save 430 kgCO_2 per year and save the household £85 per year.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the merits of including energy efficient windows in measures to be introduced under the Green Deal. [6289]

Gregory Barker: A key principle of the Green Deal is that measures delivered will provide an energy bill saving and that this saving, when considered over its lifetime, will be large enough to cover the cost of the measure. Some energy efficient windows meet this criteria and would fit well within the Green Deal.

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Nationality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK were refused British citizenship in each year since 1997; [6220]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and (d) the UK were granted British citizenship in each year since 1997. [6226]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency (Immigration Group) does not capture details of applications for British citizenship by parliamentary constituency. The following table provides details of citizenship applications granted and refused since 1997.

Citizenship ceremonies were introduced in January 2004. From this date onwards applicants' post codes were mapped to their local authority to enable the local authority to invite successful applicants to attend a citizenship ceremony. Consequently information is available for the north-west and Cheshire from 2004 onwards.

The information relating to the north-west and Cheshire has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Totals for the UK have been taken from the 2009 Home Office Statistical Bulletin.

Nationality grants and refusals of British citizenship in the North West 1997 to 2009

	Granted			*Refused*		
	Total for the UK	*Total for the north-west*	*Total for the Cheshire*	*Total for the UK*	*Total for the north-west*	*Total for the Cheshire*
1997	37,010	—	—	4,745	—	—
1998	53,935	—	—	3,750	—	—
1999	54,900	—	—	3,995	—	—
2000	82,210	—	—	6,785	—	—
2001	90,280	—	—	9,530	—	—
2002	120,120	—	—	8,330	—	—
2003	130,535	—	—	10,555	—	—
2004	148,275	3,750	180	13,820	315	10
2005	161,700	7,565	290	16,640	830	25
2006	154,020	8,265	365	15,310	740	20
2007	164,635	9,285	405	15,630	760	20
2008	129,375	8,905	330	9,085	520	15
2009	203,790	16,235	610	10,250	865	20

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Citizenship ceremonies were introduced January 2004, this is when the applicants' postcodes were mapped to their nearest local authority.
3. In 2009 Cheshire county council was split into east and west Cheshire.
4. We cannot report on constituencies.
5. The total for the UK figures have been taken from the 2009 Home Office Statistical Bulletin.

Source:

Local management information provided by UKBA, North West Region Planning and MI Team

Crime

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in levels of crime since 1981. [6359]

James Brokenshire: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 29 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 508W.

The Government intend to review how crime statistics are collected and published so that we can have the fullest confidence that the information is comprehensive and accurate.

Departmental Offices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to relocate officials working in her Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6557]

Nick Herbert: Currently there are no plans to relocate officials from the Home Office in London to Bassetlaw.

Entry Clearances

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused entry clearance into the UK in each year since 1997. [6460]

Damian Green: The total number of people who have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused entry clearance in each of the financial years from 2001-02 to 2008-09 can be found in the published annual Entry Clearance Statistics on our website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas

Reliable statistics for previous years is not available.

The number of people granted and refused entry clearance in FY 2009-10 was 2,015,670 and 444,622, respectively[1].

[1] This information is based on Management Information and as such has not been quality assured. It is provisional and subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a cost-benefit analysis to the UK economy of the presence of overseas students who obtain visas to study at English language schools will be included in her Department's review of the points-based immigration system. [6492]

Damian Green: As the Home Secretary has indicated, the Government will be reviewing the non-economic immigration routes with a view to bringing forward proposals in due course. I intend to undertake a thorough evaluation of the student system, including English language schools. The aim of that work will be to ensure that the right balance is struck between providing a user-friendly route for bona fide students and education providers and keeping out those who would seek to abuse the student system. The work will also take into account the Government's overall objective to reduce net migration to the tens of thousands by the end of the parliamentary term.

Police: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on the reform of policing in London. [6239]

Nick Herbert: We have had a number of discussions with the Commissioner on policing issues and will continue to do so.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of prisoners are foreign nationals with no right of abode in the UK. [6393]

Damian Green: The Latest information published by the Ministry for Justice shows that on 31 March 2010, there were 11,400 foreign nationals in prison. This includes those held under the Immigration Act 1971 (including those in the removal centres of Dover, Haslar and Lindholme) as well as those held on remand or serving custodial sentences.

In order to confirm how many of those have no right of abode in the UK would require cross-referencing individual records between the National Offender Management Service and the UK Border Agency, which would incur a disproportionate cost.

However, I can advise that a proportion of the foreign nationals in prison have a right to be in the United Kingdom either as an EEA national, or through another form of Leave for example Indefinite Leave to Remain or having been granted asylum. The UK Border Agency will seek to revoke leave in order to remove individuals who meet the criteria for deportation which are set out in the following paragraphs.

The UK Border Agency seeks to deport from the United Kingdom foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria:

A court recommendation.

For non-European economic area nationals. A custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (an offence other than possession only).

For EEA nationals: a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the departure of Antonia Maria Costa from the position of Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. [6546]

James Brokenshire: Neither I, nor my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, have had discussions with the Secretary-General on this subject. The UK supports the Secretary-General in making appointments based on merit to senior UN positions.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Religious Freedom

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that freedom of religion is upheld in Afghanistan. [6914]

Alistair Burt: The Government strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief. We are working to support all individuals who face discrimination and persecution on the basis of religion, wherever they are in the world. Article 2 of the Afghan constitution provides for freedom of religion, and we expect the Afghan Government to fully implement this. We have a regular dialogue with the Afghan Government on human rights, including the need to ensure the security of all Afghans, regardless of religion. In addition, we will also raise particular cases of concern with the Afghan Government as necessary.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5916]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) work to promote diversity and equality is designed to increase performance and productivity across the organisation of over 14,000 staff globally. It has contributed to our high staff survey scores compared with civil service benchmarks for leadership and staff commitment ("engagement").

The data for the FCO's Diversity Strategy Unit and main related training initiatives for the last three financial years are in the table. These include spending on a global training initiative "Making the Most of Difference", for which most costs fell in financial year 2008-09.

	Spending (£)	*Staff costs (£)*	*Staff (full-time equivalent)*
2007-08	699,360	294,258	5
2008-09	1,545,150	242,277	6
2009-10	406,262	268,377	6

Diversity and equality considerations are factored into a wide range of aspects of the FCO's work as an employer, as a provider of services to British people around the world and in the development and delivery of aspects of foreign policy. The figures in the table do not include spending and staff time on all these activities, for which data are not held centrally, nor on the costs of individual reasonable adjustments for officers with a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act.

EU Law: Fines

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what outstanding cases the UK is being pursued in the European Court of Justice over non-implementation of EU legislative obligations. [6301]

Mr Lidington: Non-implementation only infractions concern cases where the UK has completely failed to implement a directive by the transposition deadline. There are presently no cases outstanding against the UK in respect of non-implementation only of its EU obligations.

However, there are cases where there is a dispute as to whether the United Kingdom has correctly implemented its EU obligations and they are referred to as "incorrect implementation" infractions. There are presently two such cases.

C-582/08 Commission v. United Kingdom

An application for a declaration that by denying recovery of input tax in respect of certain transactions carried out by taxable persons not established in the territory of the EC, the United Kingdom has failed to comply with its obligations under Articles 169, 170 and 171 of Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax and with Article 2(1) of the 13th VAT Directive 86/560/EEC on the harmonization of the laws of the member states relating to turnover taxes.

C-301/10 Commission v. United Kingdom

An application to declare that the UK has failed to ensure that appropriate collecting systems have been put in place in Whitburn and London (to Beckton and Crossness waste water treatment works) in violation of Articles 3(1) and (2) and Annex I.A of Directive 91/271 /EC on Urban Waste Water, and failed to ensure that appropriate treatment is provided with respect to urban waste waters from London (at Beckton, Crossness and Mogden) in violation of Article 4(1) and (3), 10 and Annex I(B) of the directive.

European External Action Service

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the likely cost to the public purse of the establishment of the European External Action Service. [5417]

Mr Lidington: The Commission's amending budget no. 6 to the General Budget proposes an additional €9,521,362 (£8,079,828) for the European External Action Service (EEAS) in both commitment and payment appropriations this year. The UK's gross national income share of EU budget financing in 2010 is currently estimated at 13.8%. The pre-abatement cost to the UK of this proposal in 2010 would be roughly €1,313,948 (£1,115,016).

The text of the Decision to establish the EEAS which was given political agreement by the Council in April makes clear that the establishment of the EEAS should be guided by the principle of cost-efficiency aiming towards budget neutrality.

Kenya: Foreign Relations

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Kenyan Government since his appointment; and what his most recent assessment is of the state of UK-Kenya relations. [6201]

Mr Bellingham: The Government have good relations with the Government of Kenya. Our two countries are bound together by deep historical ties and people-to-people links. We work closely together on trade, tourism and defence, and in tackling regional and international security issues. The UK is also one of the largest bilateral aid donors to Kenya.

I met the Kenyan Prime Minister on 28 May, along with the Under-Secretary of State for International Development my hon. Friend the member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), following his earlier meeting with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister. These meetings reaffirmed the importance of the UK-Kenya partnership on a range of shared interests, and the UK's commitment to supporting the reform agenda pursued by Kenya to ensure the country's future stability and prosperity. I praised progress on Kenya's constitutional review ahead of the August referendum, and reiterated UK support in areas such as constitutional, electoral and police reform. I encouraged strong leadership from Prime Minister Odinga and President Kibaki to combat corruption and impunity, including by those who perpetrated the post-election violence of 2007-08.

The UK was saddened to hear of the attacks that took place in Nairobi on 13 June at a constitutional rally. In a public statement following the attacks, I said that we condemned any such acts of violence, and would stand with Kenya in fighting such destructive acts. I look forward to visiting Kenya soon.

Mehmet Haberal

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the imprisonment of Professor Mehmet Haberal in Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [4312]

Mr Lidington: We understand that Professor Haberal is detained as a suspect in the ongoing Ergenekon investigation. It is not our practice to comment on ongoing legal cases in Turkey. It is for the Turkish courts to assess the evidence against individuals. The EU expects Turkey, as a country negotiating to become a member, to uphold European standards throughout the investigation and any subsequent trial. We will continue to follow developments closely.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been completed in the London borough of *(a)* Richmond, *(b)* Barnet and *(c)* Hillingdon in each year since 2005. [6099]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested up to and including 2008-09 is published in Live Table 1008 on the Communities and Local Government website. The table, which includes both new-build completions as well as acquisitions, can be found at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

The next CLG Affordable Housing statistical release containing figures for 2009-10 is scheduled to be published in the autumn.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable housing starts there were in each London local authority in each year since 2005-06; and how many are projected for *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [6910]

Andrew Stunell: Information showing affordable housing starts under the National Affordable Housing Programme in each London local authority since 2005-06 is provided in the following table. Information on housing starts is recorded on the basis of when the grant is claimed which may differ from when the house building has commenced.

National Affordable Housing Programme: House building starts

Sponsor LA name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Barking and Dagenham	262	184	199	442	286
Barnet	166	449	288	402	633
Bexley	190	163	250	123	345
Brent	297	540	377	357	568
Bromley	159	268	190	273	391
Camden	198	429	229	130	377
Croydon	581	505	740	505	436
Ealing	384	408	265	575	288
Enfield	161	396	147	537	555
Greenwich	337	515	720	1,127	439
Hackney	563	988	502	625	1,145
Hammersmith and Fulham	203	824	233	139	130
Haringey	352	602	332	451	280
Harrow	104	73	294	251	370
Havering	155	303	215	203	275
Hillingdon	278	223	357	384	327
Hounslow	515	735	553	342	70
Islington	223	613	772	66	335
Kensington and Chelsea	1	62	22	95	236
Kingston upon Thames	122	54	9	64	36
Lambeth	642	508	570	742	320
Lewisham	231	193	205	353	946
Merton	186	360	53	43	134
Newham	809	1,038	914	292	1,639
Redbridge	179	372	209	116	104
Richmond upon Thames	42	233	58	5	86
Southwark	383	544	214	653	979
Sutton	211	132	93	59	286
Tower Hamlets	752	1,412	1,609	1,192	2,347
Waltham Forest	157	244	191	425	442
Wandsworth	271	306	45	185	145
Westminster	238	272	319	226	164
Total	9,352	13,948	11,174	11,382	15,114

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

The Homes and Communities Agency's corporate plan set targets for delivery over 2009-10 and 2010-11 for affordable housing starts on site:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/HCA_Corporate%20Plan_English.pdf

Performance in 2009-10 will be reported in the HCA's annual report and accounts, due to be published shortly. Given the severe financial pressures, targets for 2010-11 will be reviewed in the light of the final budgets for this year. Decisions on future levels of funding for the provision of new affordable housing will be made in the spending review.

Capital Gains Tax

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the buy-to-let housing market of proposals to *(a)* reform housing benefit and *(b)* increase the level of capital gains tax. [6382]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Work and Pensions undertakes an assessment of the impact of benefit changes on specific groups as part of the policy development process. DWP will publish a formal impact assessment in due course.

HM Treasury estimates that the likely effect on the buy-to-let sector of increasing the rate of Capital Gains Tax will be small.

Council Housing: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in the London borough of Tower Hamlets were in temporary accommodation in each year since 2005. [6515]

Andrew Stunell: Under homelessness legislation, local authorities have a duty to provide temporary accommodation to those households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, pending inquiries or review, and those who were found to be intentionally homeless but are being accommodated for such a period as would give them a reasonable opportunity to find accommodation for themselves.

The following table shows the number of households reported by the London borough of Tower Hamlets in temporary accommodation arranged by the authority, as at 31 March each year since 2005.

Households in temporary accommodation arranged by the local authority as reported by Tower Hamlets on 31 March each year, 2005-10

	Number
2005	2,948
2006	2,652
2007	2,540
2008	[1]—
2009	2,423
2010	1,899

[1] Data not reported

Source:

CLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much gap funding his Department and its predecessors has made available to support each stock transfer in Tower Hamlets since 1997. [6516]

Andrew Stunell: The following table sets out the gap funding payments that have been made to support stock transfers in Tower Hamlets since 1997.

					£ million
Stock transfer scheme	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Poplar HARCA [Leopold Estate]	0.862	1.750	0.275	3.714	3.088
Bethnal Green and Victoria Park [Sheltered]	0.369	1.018	1.902	—	—
East End Homes Ltd [St. Georges]	0.185	0.734	0.754	—	—
Tower Hamlets Community Housing Ltd [Mansford /Norton]	0.250	1.284	1.239	0.988	—
Swan Housing Association Limited [Exmouth]	—	0.580	1.577	3.321	—
Poplar HARCA [Devons Estate]	—	0.175	0.880	3.113	1.918
Spitalfields HA [Dinmont]	—	—	0.340	0.705	0.426
Eastend Homes [Glamis]	—	—	0.100	0.453	0.478
Poplar HARCA [East India]	—	—	—	3.000	1.735
Poplar HARCA [Coventry Cross]	—	—	—	—	0.581
Total	1.666	5.541	7.066	15.294	8.226

Departmental Public Expenditure

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1-2WS, on public spending control and the £1.5 billion of cancelled Government commitments this year as a result of restrictions on departmental access to end year flexibility (EYF) and the reserve, what proportion of the £220 million reduction in his Department's programmes is a result of restricted EYF. [6949]

Grant Shapps: The Government identified inherited spending plans where funding was reliant on underspending across Government though the End Year Flexibility (EYF) system or additional funding from the Reserve. However, it was highly unrealistic to expect that underspending would have been sufficient to cover all these commitments. There is insufficient contingency in the Reserve to cover the remainder. Therefore, without urgent action, the difference would result in higher borrowing this year.

As a result the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced on 5 July that four Departments had worked with the Treasury to cancel £1.5 billion of commitments that relied upon access to the Reserve and EYF, of which £220 million was from the commitments the previous Government made to the Department for Communities and Local Government for access to EYF in 2010-11. Moreover given public sector borrowing in 2010-11 was forecast to hit £167 billion, such levels of spending on 'borrowed money' was unsustainable—contributing to the forecast £1.4 trillion of public debt by 2014.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, what programmes will be reduced this year to make up the cancelled £220 million commitments in his Department; and by how much each of them will be reduced. [6950]

Grant Shapps: The Government remain strongly committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit and the announcement by the Chief Secretary on

5 July confirmed that the Department has agreed to a £220 million reduction in its claim for End Year Flexibility this year. We have therefore been able to confirm £390 million of End Year Flexibility this year, alongside the £170 million announced on 24 May, for the provision of new social housing and other housing priorities.

This guarantee of £560 million of funding will enable the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) to meet all existing contractual commitments and will to progress some of those programmes that have been paused while the funding position was under review. The HCA's regional offices will be assessing which other schemes can be progressed. Moreover given public sector borrowing in 2010-11 was forecast to hit £167 billion such levels of spending on 'borrowed money' was unsustainable—contributing to the forecast £1.4 trillion of public debt by 2014.

Green Belt

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide further powers for planning enforcement action to be taken in relation to unauthorised construction on green belt land. [6228]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to the protection of the green belt. We are also working on proposals to strengthen the powers that are available to local planning authorities to enforce against breaches of planning control, in line with our ideas in the Conservative Green Paper on planning, "Open Source Planning", the principles of which have been set out in the coalition agreement.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria he used in deciding to end the housing and planning delivery grant. [6063]

Andrew Stunell: The Government have made clear that their most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit in order to restore confidence in our economy and support the recovery. On Monday 24 May, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced the first step in tackling the deficit, setting out how the Government intend to save over £6 billion from spending in 2010-11. Included in that savings package was an expectation that savings of over £1 billion would be delivered by local government.

The intention of HPDG was to act as an incentive to local authorities to bring forward housing and prepare the ground for increased delivery. However, there has been a sustained shortfall in housing development resulting in the lowest level of house building in England since 1946. HPDG has proved an ineffective and excessively complex incentive. The coalition agreement set out that the Government will provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including for new homes and businesses and these will be set out in due course.

Housing Benefit

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the adequacy of the resources allocated to local authorities for the purposes of rehousing tenants who are found to be under-occupying social housing as a consequence of implementation of his proposals for changes to housing benefit. [5904]

Andrew Stunell: Many social landlords already provide support and incentives to tenants who wish to move to smaller properties. The national home-swap scheme which we intend to introduce will provide further assistance.

Housing: Construction

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing construction starts there were in London in each year since 2000; and how many of these were for affordable homes in each such year. [6100]

Andrew Stunell: Quarterly Statistics on the number of new housing construction starts in London are shown in live table 217 on the Communities and Local Government website and annual statistics are shown in live table 231. These tables can be found at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables/

These figures are split into private, Registered Social Landlord (RSL) and local authority tenure so an estimate of how many of these starts can be obtained by summing the RSL and local authority starts.

More accurate and detailed statistics on the annual supply (completions) of affordable housing in London, including both new-build completions and acquisitions, are shown in live table 1000 which can be found at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousing supply/livetables/

The next CLG Affordable Housing statistical release containing figures for 2009-10 is scheduled to be published in the autumn of 2010.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many housing starts there were in each London borough in each year since 2005; [6908]

(2) how many housing starts are projected for *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13 in each London local authority area. [6909]

Andrew Stunell: Annual statistics for previous years on the number of new housing starts in London are shown in live table 253 on the Communities and Local Government. This table can be found at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/housebuilding/livetables

The Department does not publish projections for house building.

The Greater London Authority produces the London Plan that includes trajectories of projected housing supply in London.

http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london/london-plan/docs/london-plan.pdf

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission will result in redundancies. [6133]

Greg Clark: We are currently designing how the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit will be constituted within the Planning Inspectorate but I expect that the majority of existing staff from the Infrastructure Planning Commission will move into the new unit.

I have asked the chief executives of both the Infrastructure Planning Commission and The Planning Inspectorate to work up detailed proposals to identify the most cost effective way to integrate the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit into The Planning Inspectorate.

The staffing of the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit within The Planning Inspectorate will vary according to the number of cases it is considering, but I would expect that the new arrangements will save taxpayers money compared to maintaining two separate bodies.

Tenant Services Authority

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* timetable, *(b)* terms of reference and *(c)* format of the review of the facilities of the Tenant Services Authority are. [6389]

Grant Shapps: The Government are reviewing the role and purpose of the Tenant Services Authority and the framework for social housing regulation, in line with our commitment to reduce the number of quangos and cut unnecessary regulation. The review will conclude as quickly as possible.

HEALTH

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6115]

Mr Simon Burns: Expenditure on organisation of and attendance at conferences in each year since 1997 is not easily available in the Department. It could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5912]

Mr Simon Burns: From 2006-07 to 2008-09, the actual spending of the Equality and Human Rights Group of the Department was as follows:

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total	2,860,300	5,059,222	4,951,770
Staff	[1]—	1,502,590	1,368,261

[1] Not available.

The Equality and Human Rights Group was re-organised into three teams in 2009. Expressed as full-time equivalents, at 5 July 2010 there are 18 civil servants working in these three teams. At any one time, secondees from the national health service and elsewhere are also recruited for their knowledge and skills.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6439]

Mr Simon Burns: Since the formation of the Government, the Department has spent £537.43 on official photographs of Ministers.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6438]

Mr Simon Burns: Two Ministers have attended the National School of Government's Learning and Development for Ministers course, at no cost to the Department.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when Ministers from his Department last met representatives of the food supplements industry to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels under Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; [6518]

(2) what steps he has taken to communicate to the European Commission the Government's policy on the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive to the European Commission. [6519]

Anne Milton: Since this Government was formed, there have been no meetings between the Department's Ministers and representatives of the food supplements industry to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels under article 5 of the food supplements directive.

I have written to and met with the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

Direct Payments

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what options will be available to patients for the receipt of payments under the Direct Payment Scheme. [6660]

Mr Burstow: Under the personal health budget pilot programme, individuals either have a bank account to receive payment or are given a pre-paid card. Most pilot sites plan to offer one method of payment but some may decide to offer a choice of these two payment options.

If individuals already receive social care direct payments or other similar funds, such as money from the independent living fund, they may use the same bank account for their direct payment for healthcare. Otherwise, a separate bank account will need to be set up to ensure the money is kept separate from the person's other resources.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of the level of training received by doctors who have trained in a non-EU member state and subsequently registered within the EU in comparison with that received by doctors who were trained in the UK. [6064]

Anne Milton: The assessment of qualifications of non-European Union clinicians wishing to work in the national health service is the responsibility of the General Medical Council (GMC).

The GMC is the United Kingdom competent authority with responsibility for assessing whether clinicians trained outside of the European economic area or Switzerland possess the relevant qualifications (along with the knowledge, skills and experience) necessary for practising in the UK—whether within the NHS or the private sector.

More information about the process for applying to the GMC and the recognition of international qualifications is available at:

www.gmc-uk.org/information_for_you/unregistered_doctors.asp

Drugs: Research

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 3.21 of the White Paper, Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—Delivering the Future, when he plans to publish the research on medicines which are not used; and if he will make a statement. [6474]

Mr Simon Burns: We have received the final research report and we are carefully considering its findings, which we will make public soon.

Enfield NHS Trust: Finance

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that any changes to the provision of front line services at *(a)* Chase Farm Hospital and *(b)* other NHS organisations for the purposes of reducing the deficit of Enfield NHS Trust do not influence the outcome of the local GP-led consultation on the future of healthcare services in Enfield. [6837]

Mr Simon Burns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has outlined new criteria that he expects decisions on national health service changes to meet:

support from general practitioner commissioners;

arrangements for public and patient engagement, including local authorities being further strengthened;

greater clarity about the clinical evidence bases underpinning proposals; and

proposals taking into account the need to develop and support patient choice.

Local NHS organisations must ensure their plans meet these criteria before continuing with planned service changes.

Epilepsy

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* prevalence and *(b)* costs to the NHS of epilepsy misdiagnosis. [6469]

Mr Burstow: Independent academic research has estimated the misdiagnosis rates at around 23% with an estimated annual cost to the national health service, for England and Wales, of up to £138 million.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that health professionals follow the guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy. The National Framework for Long-term neurological Conditions recognises the particular challenge of diagnosing some neurological conditions, and recommends a specialist assessment in line with national guidelines. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommends that all people having a first seizure should be seen as soon as possible by a specialist in the management of the epilepsies to ensure precise and early diagnosis and initiation of therapy as appropriate to their needs. The Department has made no estimates of the prevalence and costs to the NHS of epilepsy misdiagnosis.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6881]

Anne Milton: The information required can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

General Practitioners

Mr Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department has on the number of GP appointments for patients with minor ailments in the latest period for which figures are available. [6364]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

General Practitioners: Mental Health Services

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there will be separate GP commissioning boards for the provision of mental health services; and if he will make a statement. [6485]

Mr Simon Burns: The "Coalition: our programme for government" document confirms this Government's intention to strengthen the power of GPs as patients' expert guides through the health system by enabling them to commission care on their behalf. We will bring forward more detailed proposals in due course.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to end the use of mixed-sex accommodation in NHS facilities. [5869]

Mr Simon Burns: The revised operating framework for the NHS in England 2010-11[1] reiterates our commitment to eliminating mixed sex accommodation, except where it is clearly in the overall best interests of the patient.

As resources allow, we will increase the proportion of single rooms in the national health service. We will review existing sanctions with a view to strengthening them if necessary, and we will ensure that information about same-sex accommodation is made available to patients and the public - so that they can make informed choices about their place of treatment.

Note:

[1] Published by Department of Health, June 2010. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of updating the clinical guidelines for multiple sclerosis to permit the use of Sativex. [6847]

Mr Burstow: This matter is the sole responsibility of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). They issued a clinical guideline on the management of multiple sclerosis in primary and secondary care in November 2003, and are expected to review this guideline in November 2010. We therefore, have made no assessment of the merits of updating the clinical guidelines for multiple sclerosis.

Sativex is now licensed as an add-on treatment for moderate to severe spasticity in people who have not gained adequate relief from symptoms from one or more oral medicines, or have experienced unbearable side effects while taking these medicines.

NHS: Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ring-fence *(a)* NHS funding and *(b)* budgets in other areas of public expenditure to reduce health inequality; and if he will make a statement. [6800]

Mr Simon Burns: The coalition agreement commits to increases in health spending in real terms in each year of the Parliament enabling the national health service to plan for the future with more certainty.

Local directors of public health will be given control over ring-fenced public health budgets, to provide a strong local strategy and leadership for improving their population's health and provide dedicated finance for reductions in avoidable ill health and health inequality.

Final departmental spending plans will be announced in the spending review in the autumn.

NHS: Foreign Workers

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical staff registered in another EU member state are practising in *(a)* independent sector treatment sectors and *(b)* NHS hospitals. [5884]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold information on the number of medical staff registered in another European Union member state who are practising in independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) or national health service hospitals.

However, the NHS Information Centre (IC) collects data concerning the country of qualification of NHS medical staff in England. The NHS Workforce Census 2009, published by the IC, shows that 6,485 medical practitioners, working in England at September 2009, qualified within the remainder of the European Economic Area. (This is the most recent published information available.)

NHS: Standards

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 698 on NHS targets, on what indicators he plans to concentrate in order to manage waiting times; and if he will make a statement. [6795]

Mr Simon Burns: Accountability to patients and greater information transparency, through patient choice and the move towards general practitioner-led commissioning, should make long waits unacceptable.

To ensure patients do not experience undue delay at any stage of their treatment we will continue to publish and monitor hospital waiting times. GPs and commissioners of health services can use this information locally to ensure that they can continue to improve access to services for their patients. This change will empower patients and clinicians putting them at the heart of decision-making, with a focus on quality and outcomes, not processes.

The right "to access services within maximum waiting times, or for the national health service to take all reasonable steps to offer you a range of alternative providers if this is not possible" remains in the NHS constitution.

Commissioners should also continue to enforce the clauses related to waiting times within NHS standard contracts and will want to ensure that any flexibility to improve access reflects local clinical priorities.

Nurses

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* clinical and *(b)* cost effectiveness of the use of specialist nurses. [6470]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 174W.

Stomach Cancer

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individual funding requests his Department has *(a)* received and *(b)* accepted for the use of

Herceptin in the treatment of gastric cancer; and what the average time was between receipt of such a request and a decision on that request. [5133]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently appraising trastuzumab (Herceptin) for the treatment of gastric cancer (advanced HER-2 positive) and published its draft guidance for consultation on 6 July 2010.

In the absence of final guidance from NICE, it is for primary care trusts to make decisions on the funding of treatments. Information on the number and timing of such decisions is not collected centrally.

Strokes: Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to improve the research-based evidence and guidance on the costs and benefits of clinical and other support for longer-term stroke care. [5887]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently developing a clinical guideline on stroke rehabilitation for use in the national health service. NICE expects to publish its final guidance in April 2012.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funds a range of studies on stroke including research on longer-term care. The NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme is currently commissioning research on rehabilitation more than six months after a stroke. The NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care for Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire has a stroke rehabilitation theme aiming to increase the capacity of the stroke rehabilitation community to engage with and apply research findings.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Small Businesses: Finance

20. **Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to increase access to finance for small businesses. [6700]

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to increase access to finance for small businesses. [6701]

21. **Stephen Metcalfe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to increase access to finance for small businesses. [6702]

Mr Prisk: The coalition is committed to ensuring the flow of credit to viable SMEs. The emergency Budget announced numerous measures: increasing the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, creating the Growth Capital Fund and Enterprise Capital Fund.

Directors: Company Reporting

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to ensure that directors' social and environmental duties are covered in company reporting. [6696]

Mr Davey: I intend to publish a consultation later this month on our commitment to reinstate an Operating and Financial Review to ensure that directors' social and environmental duties have to be covered in company reporting and investigate further ways of improving corporate accountability and transparency.

Apprentices: Environment Protection

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the *(a)* Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and *(b)* Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the contribution that green apprenticeships could make to (i) the economy and (ii) tackling climate change; and if he will make a statement. [5355]

Mr Hayes: We are committed to increasing the number of genuine, high-quality, employer-owned Apprenticeships across all sectors, and are working with Sector Skills Councils to ensure that Apprenticeship frameworks meet the needs of the real economy. High quality training opportunities like Apprenticeships are key to supporting this country's growth and success.

We will of course want to discuss with Cabinet colleagues how Apprenticeships can contribute to the policies and priorities of all Departments. Officials in BIS, DECC and DEFRA continue to work closely in this area and on how low carbon skills development should be taken forward within the new freedoms and flexibilities we are putting in place to boost the responsiveness of the skills system to emerging growth sectors.

Extending Apprenticeships into new areas and embracing new technologies and emerging industries is fundamentally important to the very nature of Apprenticeships—we must be responsive to the changing demands of employers and industry. Sector Skills Councils are playing a lead role and collaborating over Low Carbon skills, including working with employers to design new Apprenticeship frameworks.

Broadband

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to support the roll-out of next generation mobile broadband services. [4849]

Mr Vaizey: The coalition Government are committed to releasing spectrum to support the next generation of mobile services. A decision on the approach will be made before the summer recess.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the expenditure of his Department and its predecessors on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6122]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and its predecessor bodies which remain within the BIS boundary, has spent the following amounts on conferences since 2003-04, which is the earliest date for which figures are available.

	£
2003-04	2,739,824
2004-05	5,858,182
2005-06	6,297,050
2006-07	3,475,252
2007-08	1,998,334
2008-09	4,646,532
2009-10	3,287,471

The BIS accounting system does not disaggregate the figures between the organisation of and attendance at conferences and such details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7305]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) currently has four civil servants writing speeches and articles for six Ministers, a team which includes Stephen Adams who writes for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State. The Department's three special advisers contribute to speeches among other duties when required. Policy officials regularly provide briefing which can include drafting for parliamentary speeches.

Environment Protection

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 535W, on environment protection, what forthcoming UK Trade and Investment trade missions will focus on low carbon business opportunities. [6923]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment trade missions focusing on low carbon business opportunities include a sustainable cities mission to China in September; a mission to the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference in October; a mission to FIMAI, an environment show, in Brazil in November; and a clean-tech mission to the US west coast in February.

Information about missions planned for this financial year are published on the UK Trade & Investment website, when available:

http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/eventsearch.html

Details of the mission to Delhi can already be found on the website. Details for the remaining missions will be published online shortly. Users need to search for events and missions by sector, country, region or event type.

Further Education: Regulation

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received from *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* other training providers on the implications for their operation of the regulatory framework applying to them. [5882]

Mr Hayes: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Universities and Science and I have received a number of representations from further education colleges and training organisations on issues concerning the regulatory framework. These include bi-lateral meetings with the sector representative bodies, the Association of Colleges, 157 Group and the Association of Learning Providers, as well as issues raised during our visits to colleges.

On 17 June, I wrote to Members of Parliament, colleges and training organisations informing them of a number of measures that will be taken to meet the coalition Government's commitment to set colleges free from direct state control, helping the providers of further education to focus on meeting the demands of employers and learners in their areas. We are considering what further restrictions should be removed and will take the earliest opportunity to make any necessary changes in legislation.

Higher Education and Student Finance Independent Review

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Minister of State for Universities has *(a)* met, *(b)* spoken on the telephone and *(c)* corresponded with Lord Browne about his review of higher education funding and student finance. [2956]

Mr Willetts: Since my appointment, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have had one meeting with Lord Browne, to discuss the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance.

Insolvency Service: Standards

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Insolvency Service in investigating offences relating to company insolvencies; and if he will make a statement. [6690]

Mr Davey: The Insolvency Service is highly effective in investigating corporate misconduct and disqualifying directors. Last year, 1,388 directors were disqualified for an average of 6.4 years. In addition, it completed investigations into 268 live companies, which resulted in 251 being wound up in the public interest.

Post Office: ICT

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent estimate is of the cost to postmasters and sub-postmasters of errors in the Horizon operating system; and if he will make a statement. [7533]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £836 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6823]

Mr Davey: The following table details the reductions made to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) budget as part of the savings announcement of 26 May 2010. This shows a net savings figure of £634 million, as £200 million was recycled into apprenticeships and further education programmes. A further £2 million reduction was made from UK Trade and Investment's contribution to the regional development agencies.

BIS is in the process of agreeing how the running cost savings of £48 million resource and £51.3 million capital will be made across BIS and its wider family of partner organisations.

£000

May 2010 savings announcements	*Resource*	*Capital*
Core BIS and partner organisation efficiency savings	(48,700)	(51,300)
Higher education efficiency savings package	(170,000)	(30,000)
UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCRMI)	—	(233,000)
Regional development agency savings (from core BIS funding)	(5,000)	(67,000)
UK vocational reform	—	(11,000)
Small/medium business adjudicator service	(3,000)	—
Investment in the Institute of Web Science	(5,000)	—
Small business research initiative	(10,000)	—
Train to Gain refocus	(200,000)	—
Apprenticeships	150,000	—
Further education	—	50,000
Totals	(291,700)	(342,300)

Science: Higher Education

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to encourage an increase in the number of students studying scientific subjects at university. [6037]

Mr Willetts: The Coalition Government recognise that advances in science and technology underpin the UK's economic growth and social prosperity. The UK depends on a strong base of relevant skills, developed in schools, colleges and universities We have recently announced that we are enabling universities to recruit an additional 10,000 students in 2010/11; many of these places will be in STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—subjects.

This Department works closely with the Department for Education to encourage students to choose science and engineering subjects. This Government currently support initiatives such as STEMNET, the Big Bang Fair, and HEFCE's Strategically Important and Vulnerable Subjects, and National HE STEM, programmes. Working closely with employers, these improve young people's appreciation of scientific subjects and careers. We also support activities that encourage wider public engagement with the sciences. We will review these and related activities during the spending review.

Takeovers: Public Interest

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will bring forward measures to introduce a public interest test in the consideration by regulators of take-overs and mergers; [6313]

(2) with reference to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 412W, on competition, what recent assessment he has made of progress in the takeover panel's consultation on options for amending the Takeover Code in relation to a public interest test for mergers and takeovers. [6328]

Mr Davey: A more detailed statement about the Government's approach to the way takeovers and mergers are regulated will be included in the Government's forthcoming response to the 6 April report by the Business Innovation and Skills Select Committee into Kraft's Acquisition of Cadbury (HC 234), which we will be publishing as a Command Paper shortly. I can confirm the Government have no current plans to amend the Enterprise Act 2002 as it relates to the scope for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to intervene in mergers on public interest grounds. The Takeover Panel's consultation on options for amending the Takeover Code is due to close by 27 July 2010.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Ian Swales: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to introduce legislation to end unfair bank charges. [6913]

Mr Hoban: The Government have stated in the coalition agreement that

> "we will introduce stronger consumer protections, including measures to end unfair bank and financial transaction charges".

We are considering how best to implement this commitment and will bring forward proposals in due course.

Budget June 2010

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will provide figures as in Chart A1 of the Red Book for the impact of measures in *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14 using only measures as at the Budget of (i) March and (ii) June 2010; [6476]

(2) if he will provide figures as in Chart A2 of the Red Book for the impact of measures in *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14 using only measures as at the Budget of (i) March and (ii) June 2010. [6477]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 610W.

Crown Estates

Mr Knight: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of Crown land sold by the Crown Estate in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [6464]

Justine Greening: The proceeds from sales of investment properties (land and buildings) for the last three years was as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	231.5
2007-08	328.8
2006-07	417.8

Debts: Developing Countries

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from representatives of the financial services sector on the *(a)* implementation and *(b)* sunset clause provisions of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010. [6405]

Mr Hoban: The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010 passed through Parliament in April and will mean that UK Courts of Law will no longer be used to pursue excessive claims against some of the poorest countries on their historic debts, ensuring that resources are available to tackle poverty. The sunset clause attached to this legislation requires that the Government review within a year whether or not to extend the Act. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not to date received any representations from representatives of the financial services sector on the implementation of the Act or its sunset clause provisions.

Departmental Official Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6453]

Justine Greening: There has been no spending on official photographs of Treasury Ministers since the formation of the Government.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department plans to take to implement the recent G20 summit decisions on reform of the financial sector. [5893]

Mr Hoban: The Government strongly support the commitments made by G20 countries to strengthen global financial regulation and supervision, and enhance international cooperation, and are committed to implementing these reforms in the UK. Common regulatory standards internationally are crucial to minimise the risks of regulatory arbitrage and the fragmentation of international financial markets. The UK will work through the EU to secure reforms that support and reinforce the G20 regulatory reform agenda.

Government Departments: Accountancy

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Ministers provided written directions to departmental accounting officers under paragraph 5.5 of the Ministerial Code in Session 2009-10; and what matters were covered by each such instruction. [6327]

Justine Greening: The information sought is as set out in the following table.

Date	*Department*	*Minister*	*Direction*	*Category*
2009	BERR[1]	Lord Mandelson	Icelandic Water Trawlermen Scheme	VFM
2009	BERR[1]	Lord Mandelson	Advantage West Midlands Loan	VFM
2009	MOD	Rt Hon Bob Ainsworth MP	Repatriation Flights for UK Hostages in Iraq	Propriety
2009	MOD	Rt Hon Bob Ainsworth MP	Repatriation Flights for UK Hostages in Iraq	Propriety
2009	DEFRA	Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP	Dairy Farmers of Britain	VFM
2009	BERR[1]	Lord Mandelson	Leeds Arena Project	VFM
2009	BERR[1]	Lord Mandelson	Car Scrappage Scheme	VFM
2009	BERR[1]	Lord Mandelson	Car Scrappage Scheme	VFM
2009	HMT	Rt Hon Alastair Darling MP	Asset Protection Scheme	Propriety
2010	DCLG	Rt Hon John Denham MP	Proposals for new unitary local government structures for Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk	VFM
2010	MOJ	Rt Hon Jack Straw MP	Pleural Plaques	Regularity and VFM

Date	*Department*	*Minister*	*Direction*	*Category*
2010	MOD	Rt Hon Bob Ainsworth MP	Basra memorial wall dedication ceremony	VFM
2010	BIS	Lord Mandelson	North West Development Agency's funding for Blackpool Leisure Assets	VFM
2010	DCLG	Rt Hon John Denham MP	North West Development Agency's funding for Blackpool Leisure Assets	VFM

[1] Now BIS

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people liable for income tax at the higher rate who will be net beneficiaries of his proposal to increase the personal allowance and lower the level at which the higher rate of income tax is payable. [6408]

Mr Gauke: Budget 2010 announcements on the personal allowance for under 65s and basic rate limit are aimed at ensuring that the majority of higher rate taxpayers will pay broadly the same total level of tax and national insurance as previously planned.

This is consistent with current estimates which suggest that around 1.9 million higher rate taxpayers may gain an average of just £5 in 2011-12. Such estimates depend on economic assumptions, in particular for inflation in September 2010. The projected small benefit arises due to differences in rounding amounts for the personal allowance and basic rate limit.

Inheritance Tax

Caroline Flint: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people liable to pay inheritance tax in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14, *(e)* 2014-15 and *(f)* 2015-16. [4833]

Mr Gauke: The current forecast is that about 15,000 estates left on death in 2010-11 will be liable for inheritance tax. This figure can be found, together with the historical numbers of taxpayers, on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-4.pdf

Forecast numbers of taxpayers are not available for later years as they are subject to a great deal of uncertainty because of possible changes to forecasts of asset prices.

Rents

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in Makerfield constituency. [6047]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. [6097]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* 50th percentile rent in 2010-11 and *(b)* the 30th percentile rent in 2011-12 on a property of (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedrooms in (A) Slough, (B) Salisbury and (C) Scarborough and Whitby constituency. [5999]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [6061]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Members to the answer given on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 184W to the hon. Member for West Lancashire (Rosie Cooper).

Taxation: Banks

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received from *(a)* the banking sector and *(b)* others on (i) the proposed bank levy and (ii) other measures proposed in the June 2010 Budget; [6321]

(2) what discussions he has had with representatives of the banking sector on the proposed bank levy; [6322]

(3) what *(a)* research he commissioned and *(b)* impact assessment he undertook in respect of the proposed banking levy prior to his financial statement; [6385]

(4) what modelling his Department undertook to determine the rate at which the banking levy would be set for *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* subsequent years; [6387]

(5) what criteria he used to determine the proposed level at which the banking levy would be set; [6388]

(6) what estimate his Department has made of the revenue which would accrue to the Exchequer if the bank levy were set at a rate of *(a)* 0.05, *(b)* 0.06, *(c)* 0.08, *(d)* 0.09, *(e)* 0.10, *(f)* 0.11, *(g)* 0.12, *(h)* 0.13, *(i)* 0.14 and *(j)* 0.15 per cent. in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012, (iii) 2013 and (iv) 2014. [6479]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

No external research was commissioned in respect of the bank levy prior to the financial statement.

The proposed rate reflects the risks posed by the banking sector to the financial system and wider economy, whilst taking account of current economic circumstances and the UK's competitive position.

The estimated costs to the Exchequer for the bank levy are set out in the following Budget 2010 document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Page 19 of that document sets out the pre-behavioural yield from the announced rates of the levy and the pre-behavioural yield would change proportionately with changes in the rate. No quantitative estimates have been made of the differential behavioural effects of setting the levy at these other rates.

An impact assessment will be published alongside the forthcoming consultation document.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the application of value added tax and amusement machine licence duty currently and retrospectively to automated lottery machines by HM Revenue and Customs [6490]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) have always classed automated lottery machines as gaming machines that are subject to amusement machine licence duty with VAT chargeable on their takings.

The First-Tier Tribunal heard a case involving one type of electronic lottery machine early in June and released its decision on 1 July that this specific product is a gaming machine but that the takings are exempt from VAT.

HMRC are considering the implications of this decision.

Unemployment: South Yorkshire

Mr MacShane: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the likely change to the level of unemployment in South Yorkshire in the next 24 months. [6481]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury does not produce forecasts of unemployment on a sub-national basis.

VAT

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the *(a)* economic modelling and *(b)* other impact assessments his Department used to decide on the proposals for the standard rate of value added tax contained in the June 2010 Budget. [6326]

Mr Gauke: The Budget's VAT rate increase was driven by the need to address the deficit, which will benefit everyone.

Other than Annex A of the "Red Book", describing the distributional impacts of the Budget, the economic effects of the increase in the standard rate of VAT are set out in the Office for Budget Responsibility's Budget forecast at Annex C:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexc.pdf

The associated impact assessments, which describe the compliance costs for business, were published alongside the Budget:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_impact_assessments.pdf

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the increase in Exchequer receipts from value added tax if the rate of that tax were set at *(a)* 18, *(b)* 18.5, *(c)* 19, *(d)* 19.5, *(e)* 21 and *(f)* 22 per cent. in each of the four years after January 2011. [6480]

Mr Gauke: Table 1.6 of HMRC's published tax ready reckoner tables,

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm

released at the time of the Budget, shows the effects of illustrative tax changes, including the effect of changing the standard rate of VAT by 1 percentage point in each of the years 2010-11 to 2012-13. Estimates of the effect of changing the rate by different amounts can be calculated by scaling the effect of a 1 percentage point change accordingly.

This ready reckoner costing is calculated using the same methodology as the published Budget costing of the 20% rate. Details can be found in:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Leader of the House if he will take steps to ensure that papers concerning legislation derived from EU obligations for presentation to the House are printed on a colour other than that generally used for copies of legislation laid before the House. [6330]

Sir George Young: The format for the printing of papers relating to legislation is a matter for the House. My hon. Friend's proposal would not necessarily be straightforward to implement as proposals for legislation to give effect to EU obligations are often combined with other proposals in the same legislative instrument. Where a Bill gives effect to EU legislation, transposition notes included in the explanatory notes will identify the relevant parts of the Bill.

Labour Party: Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Leader of the House how much *(a)* Short money, *(b)* Opposition Whips' Office funding and *(c)* Policy Development Grant funding the Labour Party will receive in 2010-11 and each of the subsequent two financial years. [6206]

Sir George Young: For 2010-11 the Labour party is entitled to £4,462,554 based on the number of seats and votes received by the party at the general election. The Labour party is also entitled to £604,493 to fund the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, and £129,991.79 for travel. The full amount available to the Labour party is therefore £5,197,038.79. These figures are apportioned from the date of the general election to 31 March 2011.

Separate figures are not available for funding the Opposition Whips office.

The amounts on which the formula is determined increase on 1 April each year in line with the retail prices index as at the previous 31 December. Future amounts will therefore depend on that figure.

There is no ministerial responsibility for expenditure on Policy Development Grants, which are administered by the Electoral Commission.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Reform: Referendums

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has for the reform of regulations on campaign finance and expenditure by political parties in advance of the proposed referendum on electoral reform. [5405]

Mr Harper: The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 sets out a detailed framework for the regulation of campaign finance and expenditure by political parties and other campaigners at a referendum and more generally. The Government are considering whether any additions or changes to this framework are required in preparing to bring forward legislation providing for a referendum on electoral reform.

The Coalition's programme for government also makes clear our intention to pursue a detailed agreement on limiting donations and reforming party funding in order to remove big money from politics.

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on the length of time between an order setting the date for a referendum on electoral reform and the date of the poll. [5406]

Mr Harper: The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ("the 2000 Act") provides that the date of a referendum can be specified in either primary or secondary legislation.

Following the beginning of the referendum period—the period during which controls apply on the spending and donations of those campaigning in the referendum—the 2000 Act sets out certain procedures that must take place, the effect of which is that the date of the poll cannot be less than 10 weeks after the referendum period has begun. Under the 2000 Act, campaigners have 28 days from the beginning of the referendum period to apply for designation as lead campaign organisations. The Electoral Commission then has 14 days to determine which campaigners, if any, should be designated. The date of the poll must be at least 28 days after the Commission has completed the designation process.

The Government will announce further details of the proposal for a referendum on electoral reform, including details of the date of the poll and the beginning of the referendum period, in due course. The Bill will specify the date of the referendum, which will be 5 May 2011.

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals for a minimum threshold for turnout on a referendum on electoral reform in order for its result to be valid. [5407]

Mr Harper: The Coalition's programme for government makes clear that the referendum will be decided on the basis of a simply majority. The Government do not purpose that a minimum turnout threshold should additionally apply in order for the referendum outcome to be considered valid.

Electoral Systems

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his timetable is for the introduction of measures to ensure that voters queuing at polling stations at the close of the poll in general elections are able to cast their votes. [5567]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the Electoral Commission's report of 20 May on the problems at polling stations at close of poll at the previous general election, and the Government will take any appropriate steps necessary to prevent a repeat. Any changes to the rules would have to be workable and benefit the public. We will decide in due course whether any such measures should be included in legislation later this Session.

General Election 2010: Armed Forces

Mrs Laing: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what percentage of armed forces personnel voted in the 2010 general election; [5529]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of steps taken to expedite postal votes from service personnel in Afghanistan during the 2010 general election. [5530]

Mr Harper: No record is kept of the percentage of armed forces personnel who vote at elections. They may register and vote as an ordinary elector, as a service elector or, where appropriate, as an overseas elector and therefore it is not possible to readily identify all of them.

From Afghanistan, over four fifths of postal ballot papers from armed forces personnel there who chose to vote by post as part of the specific steps taken to support them at the 2010 general election were successfully received by Returning Officers. This compares favourably with the average return rate of postal votes in general.

The Government are considering the arrangements for the registration and participation of armed forces personnel in elections.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5974]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) central records show that during the last 12 months the following items were either lost or stolen.

Item	*Number of items*	*Total estimated replacement cost (£)*
Laptop Computer	6	3100
Ergonomic Chair	3	1,461
Satellite Phone	2	1,000

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3200]

Mr Duncan: No civil servants or special advisers in the Department for International Development (DFID) are entitled to the use of a car with a dedicated driver. Nor are any entitled to use a car from the ministerial car pool.

Civil servants and special advisers cannot use a taxi for official business unless no other method of public transport is available or when carrying heavy official papers or equipment.

The Permanent Secretary has an account with the Government Car and Despatch Agency for the provision of taxi services when required.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6114]

Mr Duncan: Prior to 2009-10, the Department for International Development (DFID) did not hold centrally, complete financial information at sufficiently low level, to be able to report expenditure on the organisation of conferences. The costs in 2009-10 were £2.7 million.

DFID does not hold a central record of the cost of attendance at conferences. This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Developing Countries

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's political priorities are for the Millennium Development Goals Review Summit; and what measurable outcomes from that meeting he expects to achieve. [6076]

Mr O'Brien: At the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit in September, our priority will be to reach international agreement on an action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

The United Kingdom sees the Summit as an opportunity for both developed and developing countries to make results based commitments, including on the most off track MDGs such as maternal and child health. We are clear that any such commitments must be based on quantifiable outcomes in terms of changes on the ground.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the renewal of earlier political and financial commitments at the Millennium Development Goals Review Summit. [6077]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development attended the Foreign Affairs Council on June 14 in Luxemburg where EU Development Ministers agreed the EU position for the UN Millennium Development Goals summit. My right hon. Friend used this opportunity to urge EU colleagues to honour their financial commitments and to focus efforts on achieving the MDGs by 2015.

At the EU European Council on 17 June, following UK lobbying at the highest level, heads of state reaffirmed EU commitments to spending 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) by 2015 and to discussing progress on an annual basis.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of increasing the number of young men and women in developing countries who have a thorough and accurate understanding of HIV. [5825]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) will support actions to achieve all of the MDGs, including prioritising aid spending on programmes to restrict the spread of major diseases like HIV/AIDS.

DFID works with national governments, multilateral agencies and civil society organisations, to develop HIV awareness programmes for young people. DFID supports a range of activities which focus on the needs of young people, including: sexuality education; access to contraceptives; education and skills training.

In the coming months DFID will be reviewing its aid programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the UK taxpayer and accelerate progress towards all the millennium development goals, including MDG 6.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5909]

Mr Duncan: In common with all Government Departments, as part of the civil service equality and diversity agenda, the Department for International Development (DFID) is working to create a more diverse work force at all levels, including increasing the percentage of minority groups. Costs of promoting equality and diversity for the last three financial years are set out in the following table.

	Total costs (including staff costs) (£)	*Staff costs[1] (£)*	*Number of full time equivalent staff[2]*
2007-08	213,000	115,000	3
2008-09	285,000	147,000	3.5
2009-10	195,000	115,000	2.5

[1] Staffing costs have been calculated using average staff cost data by grade.

[2] A number of staff outside the core diversity team have also allocated a proportion of their time to promoting equality and diversity issues across DFID. These details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

India: Overseas Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on aid to India in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [6180]

Mr Duncan: The amount of bilateral assistance provided to India by the Department for International Development (DFID) is published in 'Statistics on International Development', which is available on DFID's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

In 2008-09 DFID provided £297 million in bilateral assistance to India. The figure for 2009-10 has not yet been finalised and will be published later this year.

Liberia: Overseas Aid

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department plans to provide *(a)* financial and *(b)* technical support to Liberia to support the removal of health user fees in that country. [6031]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently providing £12 million over three years (2010-12) to the Government of Liberia to support President Johnson Sirleaf's commitment to remove health user fees and enable the provision of a basic package of health services (BPHS). This is being channelled through the Health Pool Fund established by the Government of Liberia's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

The Secretary of State for International Development has recently initiated a review of DFID's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Future support to Liberia to support health financing will be determined as part of this review.

Madagascar: Forests

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has made to the Government of Madagascar on measures to prevent illegal logging in that country's rainforest. [5814]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development has made no direct representations to the Government of Madagascar on this issue. The Department for International Development (DFID) contributes £28 million to the EU action plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). This works with countries to improve the way forests are governed in order to prevent the illegal logging of timber.

Niger: Malnutrition

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to reduce the risk of malnutrition among children in Niger; and if he will make a statement. [5823]

Mr O'Brien: Two years of bad harvests and uneven rains have resulted in severe food shortages across the Eastern Sahel region of West Africa, especially in Niger and Western Chad. In response, the UK Government are supporting the treatment of over 20,000 severely malnourished children in Niger, through funding channelled to UNICEF, Médecins sans Frontières, Save the Children and Action Against Hunger. We are also supporting activities to prevent child malnutrition by targeting the food security of the most vulnerable households, including the provision of food aid to 118,000 people for three months; cash for work or direct payments to 20,000 households; assistance to 15,000 vulnerable households to maintain a minimum number of livestock; and provision of seeds to 81,000 households.

Overseas Aid

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent in each overseas country in 2009. [6903]

Mr Duncan: Details of spending in each overseas country in the financial year 2009-10 will be published later this month in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) annual report, in line with the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006. This publication will be placed in the Library of the House.

Somalia: International Assistance

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on development aid in Somalia through *(a)* UN agencies and *(b)* (i) multi-lateral and (ii) bi-lateral funding channels in the last 12 months. [6798]

Mr O'Brien: The amount of bilateral assistance provided to Somalia by the Department of International Development (DFID) is published in Statistics on International Development, which is available on DFID's website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

In 2008-09 DFID provided a total of £33.5 million in bilateral aid to Somalia. This included £20.4 million delivered through UN agencies.

In addition DFID provided an estimated £11 million of aid to Somalia via its core support to multilateral agencies.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has given in development aid to Somalia in each of the last three years. [6789]

Mr O'Brien: The amount of bilateral assistance provided to Somalia by the Department for International Development (DFID) is published in Statistics on International Development, which is available on DFID's website at;

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2009/

DFID provided £33.5 million in bilateral assistance to Somalia in 2008-09, £25.7 million in 2007-2008 and £16.6 million in 2006-07.

The figure for 2009-10 will be published later in July in line with the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Somalia. [6791]

Mr O'Brien: The United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) estimates that 3.2 million Somalis or 43% of the country's population are currently dependent on humanitarian assistance. Some 655,000 of these are in a state of humanitarian emergency.

There are 1.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Somalia, mainly due to continuing conflict. Many of the IDPs are in the Afgooye Corridor, one of the largest IDP concentrations in the world with approximately 366,000 IDPs.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of the outcome of the recent elections in Somaliland on development matters in that country; and if he will make a statement. [6838]

Mr O'Brien: The UK welcomes the presidential elections in Somaliland. President-elect Silanyo has indicated that he will put development matters at the centre of his new Government's agenda. Once he is sworn in, the Department for International Development (DFID) will discuss development priorities and plans with the new Government, as well as with the private sector, civil society and other development agencies, in order to identify clearly and understand Somaliland's priority development needs.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what priorities he has set for his Department's future funding to Yemen. [6797]

Mr Duncan: We cannot ignore Yemen, a fragile state with a rapidly deteriorating economy and instability on the rise. The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £50 million in 2010-11 to help prevent State failure.

The Secretary of State for International Development has commissioned a review of DFID's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Future support to Yemen will be determined as part of this review.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: EC action

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his policy is on the exercise of the UK opt-out in the policy areas of justice and home affairs which fall within his Department's responsibility under the Lisbon Treaty; [5881]

(2) when a decision will be taken on whether the UK will exercise its right to opt-out of each area on justice and home affairs under the Treaty of Lisbon where such a right exists. [6229]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Forthcoming legislation in the area of criminal justice will be approached on a case-by-case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting Britain's civil liberties and preserving the integrity of our criminal justice system.

The Government will decide whether to exercise its right to opt-out of each area on justice and home affairs under the treaty of Lisbon where such right exists before the 2014 deadline.

Asylum

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations in the North West procurement area have been successful in their bids for the contract period starting 10 October 2010 to the Legal Services Commission; and for each such organisation, how many and what proportion are *(a)* asylum and *(b)* non-asylum immigration cases. [6360]

Mr Djanogly: The tender process for Immigration Services is not yet complete and we therefore cannot provide details of the organisations that have been successful. The tender will conclude once all appeals have been resolved which we anticipate will be in mid September 2010.

Community Service Orders

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions since his appointment he has visited persons undertaking projects under community service orders without prior notification to the Probation Service. [6395]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since taking office in May, I have not visited anyone undertaking any unpaid work as part of their community sentence. If I were to make such a visit, I would notify the Probation Service as a matter of course.

Crime: Prison Officers

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will conduct an investigation into corruption among prison officers. [6312]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has made a robust commitment towards detecting, removing and preventing all forms of corruption in partnership with the police.

A dedicated NOMS Corruption Prevention Unit works with Regional Corruption Prevention Managers and the front line and partner agencies to raise staff awareness, develop an understanding of the extent and nature of staff corruption in prisons and related HQ functions and where practicable, to prosecute identified instances of corrupt behaviour. Each prison has an identified Local Corruption Prevention Manager with responsibility for raising awareness of the risks from corruption, helping staff in reporting and taking forward action including working with the police in support of prosecution.

A joint memorandum of understanding was agreed between ACPO and NOMS in October 2008 and gives the primacy for investigating and prosecuting individual cases of staff corruption to the police. NOMS also uses internal disciplinary proceedings to take action, up to and including dismissal, of any member of staff who is found to be involved in corrupt activities where there is insufficient evidence to support police prosecution.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of expenditure by his Department on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since its creation. [6117]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Expenditure since the inception of the Ministry of Justice for headquarters and its four Executive agencies—the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS), the Tribunals Service and the Office of the Public Guardian—is as follows:

Financial period	*£000*
2009-10[1]	5,943
2008-09	5,875
2007-08	4,257

[1] Figures for 2009-10 are unaudited and are subject to change.

The 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures are from the Ministry's accounting systems which captures expenditure under "conferences and events" and "conferences and exhibitions" classifications. The 2009-10 figures are sourced from the Ministry's new procurement system which records "conferences" separately. The 2009-10 figures are therefore not directly comparable between years.

The amounts above exclude expenditure incurred locally by the 35 local probation trusts within NOMS as this information is held locally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to distinguish the costs of organising conferences from the costs of attending conferences without incurring the disproportionate costs of examining all of the individual records that make up the amounts above and other expenditure categories where costs may have been charged, for example catering. Where the Ministry of Justice has organised conferences, the costs of staff time are not separately recorded.

With respect to the attendance at conferences, it is possible that additional related costs may have been incurred for travel and subsistence where this was not covered by the overall amount charged for conference attendance. These additional amounts could be determined only at disproportionate cost by manual examination of thousands of records held locally.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5961]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: With the exception of HM Prison Service, details of individual cases of lost and stolen property are held at a local level across the Department. Incidents relating to theft or loss of IT equipment are reportable to the central security team and there were 232 such security incidents for the financial year of 2009-10 and are detailed as follows:

Types of affected IT equipment lost/stolen	*Number of incidents*
PC	13
Laptop	78
Blackberry	23
Encryption tokens	104
Removable electronic media (e.g. CDs or USBs)	14

To determine which of these losses relate to theft and to estimate a replacement cost would involve a review of individual local records which would incur disproportionate cost.

Separate records are kept by Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS), which is part of the National Offender Management Service agency. For this period the value of lost or stolen property was £256,779. This comprises:

lost or stolen items: 988 losses at a total value of £122,880 of which 987 losses were from prison stores at a value of £122,820;

loss of personal property for which compensation was paid to prisoners, staff or third parties; 2,126 payments at a total of £133,899.

These figures are currently unaudited.

Human Rights

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of an offence within two years of receiving a community order in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [6392]

Mr Blunt: Reoffending data are based on offences committed within one year of an offender commencing a court order under probation supervision. Reoffending data covering time periods longer than one year are not collated.

Table 1 shows the number of adult offenders who commenced a court order under probation supervision between 1 January to 31 March 2008, and the reoffending rate. This table also contains a breakdown of the number of offenders who commenced a community order, and a suspended sentence order.

Table 1: Number of offenders who commenced a court order under probation supervision between 1 January to 31 March 2008, and the reoffending rate

	Number of offenders	*Proportion of offenders who reoffended*
Court Orders under probation supervision	37,619	36.1
Community Orders	27,504	36.8

Table 1: Number of offenders who commenced a court order under probation supervision between 1 January to 31 March 2008, and the reoffending rate

	Number of offenders	Proportion of offenders who reoffended
Suspended Sentence Orders	9,875	34.3

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Human Rights

Mr Straw: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether the Commission on a British Bill of Rights will consider the merits of repealing the Human Rights Act 1998; [6354]

(2) whether he plans to bring forward proposals for the United Kingdom to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. [6355]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government will make a statement to Parliament on the terms of reference of the Commission on a Bill of Rights in due course. The Government have however made clear that any Bill of Rights must incorporate and build on all our obligations under the European convention on human rights and ensure that these rights continue to be enshrined in UK law.

Legal Aid Scheme: Marriage

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people received legal aid in respect of divorce proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [6347]

(2) how much the Legal Services Commission spent on legal aid in respect of divorce proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [6348]

Mr Djanogly: Legal aid in divorce matters can be provided under two categories: legal help, for advice and assistance in both contested and uncontested petitions, and, separately, civil representation carried out under a legal aid certificate for contested divorce petitions that may require representation at court. The following table shows the number of publicly-funded divorce matters that were completed under legal help and civil representation, together with the value of the claims for the year ending 31 May 2010. It is possible for matters funded under legal help to progress to certificated work.

The claim value for legal help also includes ancillary divorce matters, such as, for example, financial provision and matters involving children where such help is provided. It is not possible to disaggregate from these cases the amounts claimed for divorce only. However, the figures for civil representation do not include ancillary matters, and therefore do relate only to divorce.

	Closed case volume	Closed case value (£ million)
Legal help	89,406	24.9
Civil representation	115	0.5

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to reply to the letter dated 20 May 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Scott Kelly. [6340]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I replied to the right hon. Member on 5 July 2010. I am sorry for the delay in responding to him.

Parricide and Matricide

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences related to *(a)* parricide and *(b)* matricide there were in the UK in each of the last five years. [6282]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold centrally details of whether the offender was related to the victim other than where the offence is specified separately in law. It is therefore not possible to identify from convictions for murder or manslaughter those specifically of parricide or matricide.

Available information given in the table is from the Home Office's Homicide Index and relates to the number of homicides where a victim was the parent of the principal suspect and the principal suspect was convicted of murder, section 2 manslaughter (diminished responsibility) or other manslaughter. The data reflect the position as at 24 November 2009, when recording closed down for the purpose of analysis, and will change as subsequent court hearings take place or other information is received. Data can be provided only for cases initially recorded as homicide by police during 2007-08 and 2008-09; prior to this the 'parent' relationship category also included the relationship 'step-parent'.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland is within the remit of the Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Currently recorded homicides[1] where the victim's relationship to principal suspect was parent[2] and the principal suspect was convicted of homicide[3]: England and Wales, 2007-08 and 2008-09[4]

		Year[4]	
Victim gender	Homicide conviction	2007-08	2008-09
Male	Murder	2	1
	Sec 2 manslaughter	1	2
	Other manslaughter	2	0
	Male victim total	5	3
Female	Murder	3	1
	Sec 2 manslaughter	2	3
	Other manslaughter	0	1
	Female victim total	5	5

[1] As at 24 November 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by police or by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Prior to 2007-08 the 'parent' relationship category also included 'step-parent'.

[3] Includes convictions for murder, section 2 manslaughter (diminished responsibility) and other manslaughter.

[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded by police as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court proceedings took place.

Source:

Home Office's Homicide Index database. Based upon headline figures in table 1.05 of "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008-09" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/10)

Departmental Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6451]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has not spent any money on official portraits of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. All official portraits are taken by members of the MoJ's in-house graphic design team at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

Prison Sentences

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection are in jail after the end of the tariff period. [5813]

Mr Blunt: The number of people detained post-tariff and serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) or detention for public protection (DPP) on 5 July 2010 was 2,860, of which 100 were detained in secure hospitals. This includes those released on licence and subsequently recalled to custody. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

The figures were taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) in the National Offender Management Service, and, as with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing. The PPUD is a live database, updated on a regular basis. As a result, snapshots taken in consecutive days will contain differences reflecting the most updates.

Prisoners' Release

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of the automatic early release from prison scheme. [6600]

Mr Blunt: The End of Custody Licence (ECL) scheme was withdrawn with effect from 12 March and this Government have no plans to re-introduce it.

Prisoners: Health Services

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Prison Service spent on prisoner healthcare in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [6391]

Mr Blunt: The Department of Health is responsible for healthcare in public-sector prisons and holds the budget. The Prison Service does not hold figures for prisoner healthcare expenditure.

Prisoners: Social Security Benefits

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of prisoners admitted in the last 12 months who derived their only legitimate income from benefit payments. [6496]

Mr Blunt: Our most recent information on the proportion of prisoners in receipt of benefit payments in the 12 months prior to reception into custody is derived from the Survey of Prisoner Crime Reduction, which is yet to be finalised and published. Our provisional estimate is between 61% and 66% of prisoners.

Rape: Disclosure of Information

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Warrington North of 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 189W, on rape: defendants anonymity, what progress has been made by his Department's Director of Analytical Services in compiling the available research and statistics on the number of false allegations in rape cases; and how soon before the summer recess his Department expects to publish the report of that research. [6497]

Mr Blunt: The director of analytical services in the Ministry of Justice is currently compiling a report which will collate available research and statistics relating both to false allegations of rape and to other relevant issues. The Ministry of Justice plans to publish the report, following external peer-review, during the week commencing 26 July.

Reoffenders

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what evidence he *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated in formulating his policy on the effectiveness of community sentences for certain groups of offenders. [6394]

Mr Blunt: Published statistics show that offenders subject to court orders under probation supervision have a lower reoffending rate than those sentenced to custody. Some of this effect may be because offenders discharged from prison have characteristics associated with a higher rate of reoffending, such as more previous convictions. But some may be due to the fact that offenders on community sentences are taking part in programmes which promote rehabilitation and because they have not been taken away from their homes, jobs and communities.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5540]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 446W. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Where possible, Ministers walk or cycle.

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 563W, on departmental official cars, in what circumstances a *(a)* civil servant and *(b)* special adviser may use a (i) taxi and (ii) car from the Government car pool; and on how many occasions (A) civil servants and (B) special advisers in his Department have made use of those services since 12 May 2010. [6806]

Mr Maude: The use of official cars and taxis by civil servants, including special advisers, is governed by the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code.

Information on the number of occasions civil servants have made use of taxis or cars from the Government car pool could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals and *(e)* non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change in each category was in each of the last 16 quarters. [5172]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) UK-born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals and (e) non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what the percentage change in each category was in each of the last 16 quarters. (5172)

The information requested is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is described in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2009. These estimates are consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

Employment levels and rates for people aged over 16 years in employment[1] [2] by nationality and country of birth—Three months ending March, June, September and December, 2006 to 2010, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and percentage

Aged over 16 years

	UK nationals	Rate	Annual % change in level	UK born	Rate	Annual % change in level	Foreign Nationals	Rate	Annual % change in level
2006 Q2	26,881	61	—	25,556	61	—	2,009	57	—
2006 Q3	27,023	61	—	25,729	61	—	2,074	57	—
2006 Q4	26,915	61	—	25,606	61	—	2,066	56	—
2007 Q1	26,946	61	—	25,620	60	—	2,019	62	—
2007 Q2	27,208	61	1	25,614	60	0	2,141	63	7
2007 Q3	27,259	61	1	25,815	60	0	2,150	64	4
2007 Q4	27,259	61	1	25,867	60	1	2,206	63	7
2008 Q1	27,120	61	1	25,737	60	0	2,286	64	13
2008 Q2	27,140	61	0	25,734	60	0	2,299	64	7
2008 Q3	27,174	61	0	25,771	60	0	2,318	64	8
2008 Q4	27,026	60	-1	25,585	60	-1	2,377	64	8
2009 Q1	26,741	60	-1	25,283	59	-2	2,347	64	3
2009 Q2	26,526	59	-2	25,095	58	-2	2,303	62	0
2009 Q3	26,732	59	-2	25,308	59	-2	2,262	64	-2
2009 Q4	26,691	59	-1	25,259	59	-1	2,288	63	-4
2010 Q1[4]	26,487	59	*-1	25,039	59	*-1	2,254	61	*-4

Thousands and percentage

Aged over 16 years

	Non-UK EU nationals	Rate	Annual % change in level	Non-EU nationals	Rate	Annual % change in level
2006 Q2	732	64	—	1,144	61	—
2006 Q3	775	65	—	1,183	62	—
2006 Q4	855	66	—	1,154	60	—
2007 Q1	922	68	—	1,098	57	—
2007 Q2	989	69	35	1,153	59	1
2007 Q3	990	70	28	1,159	59	-2
2007 Q4	1,028	70	20	1,178	58	2
2008 Q1	1,085	70	18	1,201	59	9
2008 Q2	1,082	70	9	1,218	70	6
2008 Q3	1,067	70	8	1,250	60	8

Thousands and percentage

	Aged over 16 years					
	Non-UK EU nationals	*Rate*	*Annual % change in level*	*Non-EU nationals*	*Rate*	*Annual % change in level*
2008 Q4	1,074	69	4	1,303	61	11
2009 Q1	1,118	70	3	1,229	60	2
2009 Q2	1,106	69	2	1,199	57	-2
2009 Q3	1,083	70	1	1,179	59	-6
2009 Q4	1,069	68	0	1,219	58	-4
2010 Q1[6]	1,075	68	*-4	1,179	57	*-4

Employment levels and rates for people of working age[3] in employment[1, 2] by nationality and country of birth—Three months ending March, June, September and December, 2006 to 2010: United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and percentage

	Working age[3]								
	UK nationals	*Rate*	*Annual % change in level*	*UK born*	*Rate*	*Annual % change in level*	*Foreign Nationals*	*Rate*	*Annual % change in level*
2006 Q2	25,938	75	0	24,670	75	—	1,946	67	—
2006 Q3	26,084	75	0	24,848	76	—	2,008	67	—
2006 Q4	25,989	75	0	24,742	76	—	1,946	65	—
2007 Q1	25,791	75	—	24,527	75	—	1,977	62	—
2007 Q2	25,782	75	-1	24,507	75	-1	2,101	68	8
2007 Q3	26,014	75	0	24,686	76	-1	2,111	69	5
2007 Q4	26,036	76	0	24,706	76	0	2,171	68	12
2008 Q1	25,849	75	0	24,528	75	0	2,250	69	14
2008 Q2	25,882	75	0	24,507	75	0	2,261	69	8
2008 Q3	25,998	75	0	24,552	76	-1	2,274	69	8
2008 Q4	25,725	75	-1	24,528	76	-1	2,302	68	6
2009 Q1	25,431	74	-2	24,043	74	-2	2,334	70	4
2009 Q2	25,201	73	-3	23,849	73	-3	2,256	67	0
2009 Q3	25,387	73	-2	24,043	74	-2	2,300	68	-3
2009 Q4	25,325	73	-2	23,974	74	-2	2,242	67	-3
2010 Q1[4]	25,102	72	*-1	23,731	73	*-1	2,207	66	*-5

Thousands and percentage

	Working age[3]					
	Non-UK EU nationals	*Rate*	*Annual % change in level*	*Non-EU nationals*	*Rate*	*Annual % change in level*
2006 Q2	712	76	—	1,120	64	—
2006 Q3	753	77	—	1,162	65	—
2006 Q4	828	77	—	1,137	63	—
2007 Q1	897	77	—	1,080	60	—
2007 Q2	968	77	36	1,133	59	1
2007 Q3	968	78	29	1,143	62	-2
2007 Q4	1,009	79	22	1,162	61	2
2008 Q1	1,066	79	19	1,184	62	10
2008 Q2	1,062	79	10	1,199	62	6
2008 Q3	1,043	79	8	1,231	63	8
2008 Q4	1,049	78	4	1,284	64	10
2009 Q1	1,094	78	3	1,308	62	2
2009 Q2	1,075	77	1	1,180	60	-2
2009 Q3	1,052	77	1	1,159	62	-6
2009 Q4	1,045	76	0	1,197	61	-7

Thousands and percentage

	Working age[3]					
	Non-UK EU nationals	Rate	Annual % change in level	Non-EU nationals	Rate	Annual % change in level
2010 Q1[4]	1,052	75	*-4	1,155	60	*-4

[1] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.

[2] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.

[3] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[4] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what definition of the word reshaping in section 3.4(i) of his Department's Structural Reform Plan he uses in the context of changes to the ContactPoint and identity card databases. [6788]

Mr Maude: The use of the word reshaping in the Cabinet Office Structural Reform Plan reflects the two specific programmes in question ContactPoint and ID cards. I have used the Cambridge English Dictionary definition of reshaping—to shape something again or differently.

In the case of ID cards, the closure of the programme has been announced and the process of closure is now under way. We have already announced the early release of 70 temporary staff in Durham as part of this process.

We have made clear our intention to end ContactPoint as soon as is practicable and are considering developing a new service aimed at supporting vulnerable children. We recognise that significant investment has already been made in developing ContactPoint and the infrastructure that supports it. Therefore, we will seek to make the most appropriate use of that investment when considering a new approach.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will place a copy in the Library of his Department's report on the usability, cost and quality of Government websites. [5678]

Mr Hurd: A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Lone Parents: Newcastle upon Tyne

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there were in Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency in 2009-10. [6739]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency in 2009/10. (6739)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary. Newcastle Upon Tyne North, as constituted in 2008, consisted of 13 electoral wards, four more than the current constituency. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine" whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituency.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 (thousand)*
Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency (2008)	3

Source:

APS January to December 2008.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Redundancy Pay

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the cost has been of severance payments made to special advisers from each Department made redundant at the general election. [5982]

Mr Maude: The information requested is currently being collected, and will be published in due course.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment Schemes: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the level of unemployment in *(a)* the west midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [6802]

Chris Grayling: The Government have set out a number of major welfare to work reforms, including a core integrated Work Programme and a number of measures designed to support people to find employment. These measures are designed to help in the Government's key aims of fighting poverty, supporting the most vulnerable and helping people break the cycle of benefit dependency, and will be introduced at a national level.

The Work Programme, which we aim to introduce by summer 2011, will be an integrated package of personalised support providing help for people who find themselves out of work. This support will be made available on the basis of need rather than on the benefit claimed. The Work Programme will be delivered by contractors drawn from the private, public and voluntary sectors. We will offer them stronger incentives to work with the harder to help, paying delivery partners out of the additional benefits they realise as a result of placing people into work.

Alongside the core Work Programme, a series of individual support measures will be introduced to Get Britain Working such as:

Work for Yourself, giving access to business mentors and start-up loans;

Work Clubs, to give unemployed people a place to share skills and experiences;

Service Academies, which will offer specialised pre-employment training and work placements; and

Work Together, to encourage and facilitate volunteering.

Further support is also being planned for young people, including work experience opportunities with small businesses and sole traders, more apprenticeships and more further education places.

Until the Work Programme is implemented, the Government will ensure appropriate support is in place.

Housing Benefit

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in West Lancashire constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-112 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [5635]

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the effects of the Government's plans to reduce by 10% housing benefit for those who have been on jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months on the number of tenants who fall into arrears and may be subject to eviction. [5840]

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Stretford and Urmston constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit for such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [5860]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Makerfield constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average weekly reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6045]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6059]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Worsley and Eccles South constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6095]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average weekly reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6143]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average weekly reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6191]

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Lewisham East constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit among such people; what estimate he has made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6591]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average weekly reduction in benefit among such people; what estimate he has made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6639]

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Cynon Valley constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate he has made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6781]

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Wakefield constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current levels in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate he has made of the effects of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6793]

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of social sector tenants in Birmingham, Erdington constituency whose housing benefit payments will be reduced from their current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; what his estimate is of the average reduction in benefit of such people; what estimate has been made of the effect of such reductions on the local authority's housing revenue; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the reductions on new build in the social sector. [6943]

Steve Webb: We will publish an impact assessment for the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates on the 23 July 2010.

We are developing the detailed policy design of the other housing benefit changes announced in the Budget. We shall publish impact assessments to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament and are investigating the scope for publishing sooner.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in each English local authority, in properties of each bedroom size, will be above the cap proposed on page 48 of the Budget Red Book on the date on which the cap is expected to be implemented on local housing allowance. [6836]

Steve Webb: An estimate of how many households in each English local authority, in each bedroom size, will be above the cap proposed on page 48 of the Budget Statement will be included in the impact assessment of the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates. The Department will publish this on 23 July 2010.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* persons of working age in work, *(c)* persons of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Wakefield constituency. [6794]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* others who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months by 2013 in Bishop Auckland and Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [5179]

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in West Lancashire constituency in 2013; and how many of them are lone parents. [5688]

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* people and *(b)* lone parents who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in Stretford and Urmston constituency in 2013. [5866]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents who will have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 23 months in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency by 2013. [5902]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents in (i) Slough, (ii) Salisbury and (iii) Scarborough and Whitby constituency who will have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months by January 2013. [6010]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in Makerfield constituency in 2013. [6054]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in Worsley and Eccles South constituency in 2013. [6094]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in (i) Glasgow North and (ii) Ealing Central and Acton constituency in 2013. [6152]

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in Kingston upon Hull North constituency in 2013; and how many of them are lone parents. [6527]

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents who will have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in Lewisham East constituency in 2013. [6594]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents in (i) Ashfield, (ii) Argyll and Bute and (iii) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency who will have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months at January 2013. [6643]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency. [6741]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 65 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Newcastle Upon Tyne North.

Note:

The figure has been rounded to the nearest 5.

Pensioners: Newcastle upon Tyne

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [6740]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table.

Parliamentary constituency: Newcastle Upon Tyne North

	Number
State pension recipients	18,600
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	6,490
Pension credit household recipients	5,240

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State Pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of State Pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic State Pension, but are receiving additional State Pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic State Pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pregnant Women: Grants

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many health in pregnancy grants were made in Kingston upon Hull North constituency in 2009-10. [6525]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Newcastle Upon Tyne North constituency. [6738]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Disability living allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and employment support allowance claimants in Newcastle upon Tyne North parliamentary constituency: November 2009

	Number
DLA	5,310
IB/SDA	3,670
ESA	750

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions b[illegible] receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Wakefield constituency. [6792]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Disability living allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and employment support allowance claimants in Wakefield parliamentary constituency: November 2009

	Claimants
DLA	5,740
IB/SDA	3,920
ESA	790

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Vocational Training

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to promote re-skilling initiatives in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* the UK; and how much funding his Department has allocated to such initiatives in 2010-11. [6801]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to join up employment and skills systems in England to better help jobseekers identify and address their skills needs, find employment and progress in work.

The Department is reviewing all of these initiatives as we develop the Work Programme. The Work Programme will be introduced early next year and offer better targeted support to all unemployed people, regardless of the benefit they claim.

Jobcentre Plus in Coventry currently promotes a variety of re-skilling initiatives. The major part of this is via the rapid response service to employers making redundancies. In the west midlands this support can be provided while individuals are under notice of redundancy via Unity—Better off West Midlands, who are funded by the Skills Funding Agency, to provide specialist careers advice followed by short work-focused skills training to help equip individuals return to work.

Where appropriate mainstream provision is not available, Jobcentre Plus advisers make a specific business case to support the cost of appropriate training via Rapid Response Funds where Jobcentre Plus arranges for the training to be procured. In the current financial year skill support for 60 individuals has been provided costing £3,084 in Coventry and Warwickshire, with a further £9,991 committed to the end of June. Forecast expenditure for the whole year 2010-11 is £97,395.

Responsibility for skills training in Scotland and Wales is devolved to those Administrations.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the merits of reducing the age of eligibility for the winter fuel allowance. [6803]

Steve Webb: The winter fuel payment is paid to most people who have reached women's state pension age. Older people are targeted because they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of cold weather during the winter months.

In line with the increase in women's state pension age, the qualifying age for winter fuel payments for both men and women will rise gradually to age 65 between 2010 and 2020.

Work Capability Assessment: Mental Illness

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the level of accuracy of ATOS in assessing the eligibility of people with mental health conditions for employment and support allowance. [6805]

Chris Grayling: The decision about entitlement to employment and support allowance is determined by DWP decision makers, not healthcare professionals working for Atos Healthcare.

Medical reports for employment and support allowance provided by healthcare professionals, including those relating to mental health conditions are subject to random quality audit by a system agreed with the DWP and which is conducted by experienced medical auditors within Atos Healthcare. The quality of Atos Healthcare audit is validated by senior medical auditors from Atos Healthcare and doctors working for the chief medical adviser to the DWP.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 July 2010

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members' Staff: Training

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many hon. Members have had their staff trained by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in the operation of its systems. [7215]

Mr Charles Walker: As of 8 July 2010 approximately 400 Members' staff have been trained in the operation of online expenses system.

Members: Bank Services

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on the disclosure of bank account details submitted to the Authority by hon. Members. [7207]

Mr Charles Walker: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) does not propose to publish account details submitted by MPs, including the MP's own account details, or those of their staff. This includes the details of bank accounts, mortgage, insurance or utility account numbers, and account numbers provided on individual invoices.

In accordance with the requirements of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009, IPSA launched a consultation on its publication proposals on 16 June 2010. The consultation closed on 7 July 2010 and IPSA's finalised policy will be published before Parliament's summer recess.

Members: Finance

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many hon. Members have *(a)* supplied and *(b)* not supplied the details required to use the online financial system operated by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [7216]

Mr Charles Walker: As of 8 July 2010, 639 Members have provided the required details to receive the RSA token, which enables them to use the online expenses system. 485 Members have logged on to the system and registered their intent to claim.

Members: Security

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (1) what advice on the security implications of IPSA's publication proposals was obtained by IPSA before the launch of the consultation on the proposals; [7986]

(2) whether the security advice issued to hon. Members was taken into account by IPSA in drawing up its publication proposals for consultation. [7987]

Mr Charles Walker: The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) is aware of the security advice issued to hon. Members and takes the security concerns of MPs and their staff very seriously.

IPSA has met the Information Commissioner's Office and the Parliamentary Security Co-ordinator to discuss security issues, including the impact of our publication scheme. Following this advice, IPSA does not propose to publish MPs' sensitive personal data, or any information about the time of any journeys made. It stands prepared to respond to security concerns should they arise in any specific individual circumstances.

Members: Training

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many hon. Members have participated in training sessions offered by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [7214]

Mr Charles Walker: As of 8 July 2010, 642 Members have completed the relevant training sessions offered by IPSA.

Members: Travel

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many hon. Members have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received travel cards from the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [7213]

Mr Charles Walker: As of 8 July 2010, 640 MPs have ordered travel cards from IPSA by completing a Member's details form.

Of these, 182 Members have yet to collect their cards. The cards can be collected from the IPSA Documentation Centre at 1 Parliament street, which is open every day from 09.00 to 13.00 and 14.00-16.00, until 31 July 2010.

Telephone Services

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) plans to publish a list of telephone numbers and names of relevant IPSA officials who may be contacted by hon. Members on all issues regarding their staffing, office and travel costs. [7027]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA has established an information line for MPs to contact its Support Services Team, who will take queries regarding MPs' staffing, office and travel costs. The telephone number for the information line is 020 7811 6400. Any IPSA official on the information line will be able to assist Members with their queries and will have access to records of their previous questions. IPSA regards this as a more effective approach to providing advice than publishing individual telephone numbers.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* injuries and *(b)* fatalities incurred by the Taliban attributable to the actions of British forces in the last 12 months. [7208]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence and the International Security Assistance Force do not maintain an overall estimate of the number of insurgents killed in Afghanistan. To collect and verify such information is extremely difficult given the nature of the conflict, and the risks involved would outweigh the benefits of obtaining the information. There is also no reliable method to calculate the number of insurgents killed.

The long-term strategy for defeating the insurgency in Afghanistan is not as a purely military campaign but rather through a wide range of military and non-military activities. As such, the number of insurgents killed or injured during the campaign does not provide a useful measure of success.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-combat vehicles are rented by each of the armed services. [5864]

Peter Luff: The UK White Fleet contract accounts for approximately 90% of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) short-term hires made in the UK. The breakdown is as follows:

Top level budget	*Total number hires FY 2009-10*
Air Command	19,960
Chief Joint Operations	5,413
Defence Equipment & Support	50,534
Defence Estates	6,224
Land Forces	85,033
Navy Command	26,075
The Central TLB	25,769
Trading Funds	295
Total	219,302

The number of short-term hires through the British Forces Germany White Fleet contract was 17,527. In addition, short-term overseas hires booked through MOD's Defence Travel Cell for the financial year 2009-10 amounted to 4,787.

It is not possible to break down the numbers of short term hires on a per service basis, as bookings are made using civilian titles for security reasons.

Hires through Government Procurement Cards, MOD agencies such as the Defence Support Group, Met Office and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and overseas dependencies fall outside the scope of White Fleet contracts and have separate local arrangements. These details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Colombia: Military Aid

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been budgeted for military aid to Colombia in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* future years; and whether it is included in his current review of spending. [5209]

Nick Harvey: The only military aid we provide to Colombia is for the ongoing programme of counter-narcotics assistance. It would not be appropriate to provide details about this programme, as to do so would prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7300]

Dr Fox: Two civil servants are employed to assist with speeches for Ministers across the Department.

Historical Enquiries Team

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an assessment of the findings of the Historical Enquiries Team report on the death of William McGreanery; and if he will make a statement. [5804]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* No. The Historical Enquiries Team is independent of Government and provides reports to the families, not Government. Consequently, I have not seen the full report.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the case of Amantullah Ali, a Pakistani National arrested by British troops in the Basra area in February 2004, what steps are being taken in line with the UK's responsibilities under international conventions to ensure his proper treatment. [5285]

Dr Fox: In answering this question I have assumed that the right hon. Member's question refers to the two Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba members who were captured by British forces in Baghdad in February 2004, transferred to US detention in accordance with normal practice at the time and then transferred to Afghanistan by the US.

The Ministry of Defence maintains an ongoing dialogue with US colleagues on a range of detention-related matters, including the two Pakistani individuals referred to. The most recent contact of this nature occurred in

May 2009. I can also confirm that the US provides access to the two individuals by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of plans for the future of Operation Telic; and if he will make a statement. [5937]

Dr Fox: Operation Telic has evolved through a number of separate phases since the start of operations in 2003. Initial high-intensity war fighting soon transitioned to counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, and in 2009 there was a fundamental change of mission to training and mentoring. Planning for the future of Operation Telic is the subject of ongoing work but the partnership between the UK and Iraq will continue to be strengthened through co-operation in a range of areas including the economy, culture, commerce, education and defence. It is clearly in the UK's interest to continue to develop a strong bilateral relationship with Iraq and in support of this we will look to build on our long tradition of defence co-operation. The nature and timing of such co-operation will depend on the wishes and approval of the Iraqi Parliament.

Military Bases: Safety

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place a copy in the Library of the scoping report which was based on the Haddon-Cave Nimrod review and was presented to the Defence Environment and Safety Board at its meeting of 25 February 2010. [2653]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 16 June 2010]:* No. I am withholding the report as it relates to the development of Government policy.

Trident

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Investment Approvals Board to consider the report of the Initial Gate review for the Trident replacement programme; whether he plans to publish that report; and what opportunities hon. Members will have to scrutinise that report. [7751]

Dr Fox: We are currently planning for Initial Gate decision towards the end of 2010, following consideration by the Investment Approvals Board in the autumn. It is not normal for Parliament to be involved in Initial Gate decisions for procurement projects. I do, however, propose to update Parliament on progress after the Initial Gate decision through the publication of a report.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission is undertaking work together with the Office for National Statistics on increasing the accuracy of estimates of the number of *(a)* eligible voters in the UK and *(b)* the number of such people not on the electoral register. [7759]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is currently working with the Office for National Statistics, the General Register Office for Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency to use 2011 Census data to assess the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers in the UK.

The aim of this is to provide estimates of the number of eligible voters in the UK and the number of eligible voters not on an electoral register. However, this analysis may not be complete until 2014 because of the length of time taken to make census data available once the collection of information is complete.

WALES

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7515]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. Three television sets were purchased between 2000 and 2002, although the costs are not recorded.

In 2006-07 the Office purchased two television sets at a total cost of £224.16.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7346]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. No records are held on expenditure on information and communication technology before 2005-06. Wales Office IT is provided under a contract set up by the Ministry of Justice, and the costs are set out as follows:

	£
2005-06	158,869
2006-07	184,618
2007-08	194,753
2008-09	113,595
2009-10	183,988

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7635]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. From 1999 until 2004 the maintenance of its building in London was undertaken through contracts managed by the National Assembly for Wales and since then this has been done through Ministry of Justice contracts. Charges made by the Ministry of Justice to the Wales Office do not split costs down to light bulbs. If these figures could be obtained, it would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7491]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. The only expenditure on logo design was in 2000-01 when £2,728 was spent designing the Wales Office logo.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7616]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. In 2007 £10,500 was spent to redesign the Office's English and Welsh websites.

There are no records of any earlier website design costs.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which Ministers in her Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5557]

Mr David Jones: This information is not kept on record. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7953]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has spent £16,723 on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. My office has cancelled the car contracted for my use in London, thereby halving this Department's previous number of ministerial cars in London. We are currently looking at value for money options for the car used by myself and the Secretary of State in Wales.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7453]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. Records for hospitality go back to 2003-04 and the amounts spent are as follows:

	£
2003-04	4,565
2004-05	6,238
2005-06	8,528
2006-07	16,467
2007-08	12,052
2008-09	8,058
2009-10	1,945

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which of her Department's regulations are under review; and if she will make a statement. [7141]

Mr David Jones: The following regulations will be reviewed and updated:

The National Assembly for Wales (Disqualification) Order 2006

The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2007

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on security in each year since 1997. [7383]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. The Wales Office building has since 2008 had 24 hour security owing to its position in Whitehall. Records prior to 2005-06 did not split costs in such a way as to detail the spend on security. The costs from 2005-06 are as follows:

	£
2005-06	49,082
2006-07	71,506
2007-08	85,021
2008-09	129,887
2009-10	123,859

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7472]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. Records do not separate the cost of stationery from the cost of other office supplies, and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997. [7327]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. An away day was held in February 2003, but expenditure records for that time did not separate out this cost.

In 2006-07 an away day held in Swansea cost £9,362

In 2007-08 an away day held in London cost £15,109

In 2008-09 an away day held in Cardiff cost £8,672

Also in 2008-09 policy branch held a team event at a cost of £597.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on travel for its employees in each year since 1997. [7434]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. The following amounts have been spent on travel for the Wales Office since July 1999:

	£
1999-2000	35,654
2000-01	86,000
2001-02	105,233
2002-03	125,526
2003-04	112,129
2004-05	112,877
2005-06	114,510
2006-07	103,312
2007-08	135,840
2008-09	150,755
2009-10	182,388

The Wales Office is based in London and Cardiff and staff need to travel between the offices regularly in the course of their duties.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7954]

Mr David Jones: Both myself and the Secretary of State have had use of cars provided by the Government Car Service since the Government took office. Neither of us has made any claims for taxis, buses or underground trains in that period.

Officials in the Wales Office do not use the Government Car Service.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on *(a)* electricity, *(b)* water, *(c)* heating and *(d)* telephone services in each year since 1997. [7597]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. Records for utilities go back to 2005-06 and the amounts spent are as follows:

£

	Electricity	*Water*	*Heating*	*Telephone*
2005-06	4,132	1,569	8,505	18,558
2006-07	5,054	991	15,586	44,868
2007-08	4,007	4,015	13,746	20,208
2008-09	7,416	2,887	6,305	71,237
2009-10	9,730	414	7,140	67,376

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: ICT

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission how many hon. Members have *(a)* requested and *(b)* declined computer equipment provided by PICT in the present Parliament. [7248]

Sir Stuart Bell: As of 8 July 2010, 301 Members had requested new ICT equipment from PICT. No Member has yet declined the ICT equipment that PICT has provided.

Plants

Barbara Keeley: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on flowers and plants in the House of Commons in 2009-10; and how much is estimated to be spent in 2010-11. [6720]

Sir Stuart Bell: Expenditure on flowers and plants in the House of Commons in 2009-10 was £122,227 and estimated expenditure in 2010-11 is £115,939.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Apples

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantity of *(a)* apples and *(b)* apple concentrates was imported to the UK in each of the last 10 years; and what quantity was consumed in each such year. [6210]

Mr Paice: The following table provides details of UK imports of apples as recorded in the Official Overseas Trade Statistics for the period 2000-09.

Information on UK imports of apple concentrates is not collected.

UK imports of apples, 2000-09

Tonnes

	Cider apples	*Fresh apples, other than cider apples*	*Apples, fresh—total*
2000	8	473,729	473,737
2001	6	467,787	467,793
2002	33	448,433	448,466
2003	2,468	473,941	476,409
2004	1,161	523,753	524,915
2005	237	520,376	520,613
2006	129	537,924	538,052
2007	404	522,709	523,114
2008	273	477,718	477,992
2009[1]	36	456,077	456,112

[1] 2009 data are subject to amendments.

Note:

Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Economics and Statistics Programme, DEFRA.

Source:

H M Revenue and Customs

The following table shows the quantity of apples purchased by UK households from 1999 to 2008. Figures from 2009 have not yet been published.

Information on the household consumption of apple concentrates during this time is not available, and we have no estimate of the quantity of apples going into food manufacturing and catering.

Household purchase of fresh apples

Thousand tonnes

	1999	*2000*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Weight (thousand tonnes)	536	575	538	520	516	525	545	548	554	514
g/person/week	174	187	175	172	171	173	179	180	178	162
Tonnes/person/year	0.009	0.010	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.008
Population (thousand)	[1]59,139	[1]59,139	59,139	57,990	58,142	58,313	58,473	58,603	59,737	60,816
Thousand tonnes/year	536	575	538	520	516	525	545	548	554	514

[1] Estimated.

Note:

The table covers purchases for household supplies by all UK households. National Food Survey estimates are adjusted to align with the Living Costs and Food Survey.

Source:

2001 Family Food Module of the Living Costs and Food Survey; prior to 2001 National Food Survey

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantity of apples was produced in the UK in each of the last 10 years; and what quantity was consumed in each such year. [6211]

Mr Paice: The following table shows the quantity of apples produced in the UK from 1999 to 2008. Figures for 2009 have not yet been published.

Apples home production marketed from 1999 to 2008

Thousand tonnes[1]

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Dessert Apples										
Cox's Orange Pippin	76.5	48.6	61.0	41.4	34.5	46.6	60.1	64.0	39.2	50.8
Worcester Pearmain	3.6	3.6	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.3	1.8	1.9
Discovery	6.5	4.6	3.7	2.9	2.4	2.2	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8
Early Season	2.9	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.0
Mid Season Desserts	8.4	7.8	7.0	7.1	6.8	7.3	7.8	7.7	7.4	6.7
Late Season Desserts	36.1	35.5	28.9	29.1	22.4	31.7	42.8	50.0	52.7	54.3
Total Dessert Apples	133.9	101.3	104.4	84.0	69.0	92.2	118.0	129.3	106.2	118.4
Culinary Apples										
Bramley's Seedling	109.4	105.1	105.4	94.0	73.3	76.6	98.5	109.9	135.3	123.0
Other Culinary	3.0	2.3	1.9	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Total Culinary Apples	112.4	107.5	107.4	95.3	74.9	78.2	100.1	111.5	136.9	124.5
Total Apples:	246.4	208.7	211.8	179.4	143.9	170.3	218.2	240.8	243.1	243.0

[1] 'Home Production Marketed' means the quantity of apples grown in the UK that made it to market. Any losses during the growing process are not accounted for in the table.

Source:

DEFRA publication: Basic Horticulture Statistics

The following table shows the quantity of apples purchased by UK households from 1999 to 2008. Figures from 2009 have not yet been published. A breakdown estimate of the quantity of apples going into food manufacturing and catering is not available.

Household purchase of fresh apples

Thousand tonnes

	1999	*2000*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Weight (thousand tonnes)	536	575	538	520	516	525	545	548	554	514
g/person/week	174	187	175	172	171	173	179	180	178	162
Tonnes/person/year	0.009	0.010	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.008
Population (thousand)	[1]59,139	[1]59,139	59,139	57,990	58,142	58,313	58,473	58,603	59,737	60,816
Thousand tonnes/year	536	575	538	520	516	525	545	548	554	514

[1] Estimated

Note:

The table covers purchases for household supplies by all UK households. National Food Survey estimates are adjusted to align with the Living Costs and Food Survey.

Source:

2001 Family Food Module of the Living Costs and Food Survey; prior to 2001 National Food Survey

Boilers: Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish a full emissions profile for the use of B30K fuel in domestic boilers, including all air quality pollutants contained in the air quality strategy. [6808]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold any information on the emissions profile of the fuel B30K.

Butterflies

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with conservation groups on decreases in the population of butterflies. [7116]

Richard Benyon: Butterfly Conservation and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology provide data on populations of butterflies that we published in "UK Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket 2010" on 20 May.

Officials are in regular contact with these organisations to ensure that the indicators of butterfly conservation trends that we publish are accurate and objective.

Officials from DEFRA and Natural England meet Wildlife and Countryside Link regularly—an umbrella body that brings together voluntary organisations in the UK, including Butterfly Conservation, to protect and enhance wildlife, landscape and the marine environment. Officials met Wildlife and Countryside Link earlier this year to discuss progress with commitments to halt biodiversity loss.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in her Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3205]

Richard Benyon: There are no civil servants or special advisers in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs entitled to the use of a car with a dedicated driver nor are any entitled to use a car from the ministerial car pool.

Civil servants and special advisers can use a taxi when this is justified, for instance when no other method of public transport is available or when carrying heavy official papers, baggage or equipment. The Department has an account with the Government Car and Despatch Agency for the provision of such services when required.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Ministers in her Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5545]

Richard Benyon: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £162 million of savings allocated to her Department will be made. [6834]

Richard Benyon: I would refer the right hon. Member to the information contained on the DEFRA website at the following link:

http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/about/corporate-finances

I quote an extract in answer to his question:

> "These in-year efficiencies will include the following elements:
>
> £49 million from Core DEFRA operational efficiencies
>
> Core DEFRA admin—£12 million (5.5%);
>
> IT—£17 million;
>
> Estates—£19 million;
>
> Shared services, knowledge management, performance—£1 million
>
> £45 million equating to a 5% in-year cut in budgets of DEFRA's Arm's Length Bodies
>
> £8 million from reducing funding for Regional Development Agencies
>
> £7.5 million from a reduction in (un-used) grants to Local Authorities for contaminated land
>
> £30 million savings in flood management while still maintaining expenditure at record levels
>
> £23 million from reducing other low value spend:
>
> £5 million from making better use of EU funding for Catchment Sensitive Farming
>
> £9 million from the Rural Development Programme for England including from reducing agri-environment capital payments
>
> £5 million from scaling back IT investment on the Whole Farm Approach
>
> £4 million reflecting the decreasing prevalence of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies disease in recent years."

Environment: Internet

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans *(a)* to maintain the public availability of the datasets stored on the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside website and *(b)* to continue to collect and make publicly available information on environmental schemes and designations in that format; and if she will make a statement. [7293]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) project remain committed to maintaining the public availability of the datasets that are currently available through the MAGIC website:

www.magic.gov.uk

The website is one of the sites that we plan to close as part of the transformational Government website rationalisation process, but I will ensure that the MAGIC service and datasets continue to be made available to the public.

Flood Control: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risk to be implemented in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [7919]

Richard Benyon: The EU Floods Directive was transposed into law in England and Wales by the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, which came into force on 10 December 2009. The directive has also been transposed through separate legislation in Scotland and in Northern Ireland.

The first stage of the directive is now being implemented in England and Wales. The Environment Agency has issued guidance to lead local flood authorities on how to prepare preliminary assessment reports.

Work is now under way to determine an appropriate method for identifying areas of significant risk, for which flood maps and flood risk management plans will need to be prepared.

Water Supply: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the levels of perfluorooctane sulphonate remaining in water supply areas of Hertfordshire as a result of the incident at Buncefield in December 2005. [7117]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency continues to monitor for the presence of perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS), as a consequence of the Buncefield explosion in December 2005. This monitoring showed a peak in concentrations of pollutants indicative of fire fighting foam and petrol during 2006. Since 2006 the concentrations have reduced but the Environment Agency's monitoring still shows these pollutants consistently throughout the chalk aquifer, with higher levels under the site itself.

The detection of PFOS in the aquifer has not resulted in any impact on drinking water quality. The quality of drinking water in England is regulated by the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000. The requirements of these regulations are enforced by the Drinking Water Inspectorate. Although standards are not specified for all chemical compounds in existence, the regulations do require that, in order to be considered "wholesome", drinking water must not contain any substance at a level which would constitute a potential danger to human health.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate has issued guidance on the levels of PFOS perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) that water companies should act on in order to fulfil their statutory obligations to ensure the safety of drinking water. This guidance was based on independent advice from the Health Protection Agency. Weekly monitoring by the water company of treated drinking water supplied to consumers has shown that detections of PFOS are significantly below trigger levels in place to protect public health.

Wildlife: Crime

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will establish *(a)* a telephone line and *(b)* an email system for reporting of suspicious trade in animals and animal products by internet users; [7410]

(2) if she will initiate a campaign to raise the level of awareness of internet users of the regulation of trade in animals and animal products; and what steps she is taking to assist internet users to report suspicious trade; [7411]

(3) if she will bring forward proposals to increase the level of regulation of the internet wildlife trade. [7412]

Richard Benyon: Regulations are in place which make it an offence to display or offer for sale the most endangered species via any medium, including the internet. Nevertheless, the UK is working with the international community, and chairs a convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) e-commerce group, to assess the best means of reducing or tackling such offences. As part of this process DEFRA will be considering introducing a code of conduct for internet operators to raise awareness of the legal situation, and in doing so take account of the experiences of other countries in drawing up such a code, including the means and merits of a reporting element.

Animal Health's wildlife licensing and registration service (WLRS) already has systems in place for the reporting of suspected illegal trade in CITES listed species and their parts and derivatives, including a telephone number and e-mail address. Suspected illegal trade in CITES and non-CITES listed species can also be reported to the police, or in the case of imports and exports to the HM Revenue and Customs confidential hotline (which is shared with the UK Border Agency).

SCOTLAND

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7394]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has one civil servant who writes speeches for our Ministers. He also carries out other communications work.

Economic Situation: Scotland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the decision to raise the standard rate of value added tax *(a)* before and *(b)* since the Budget Statement; and what assessment has been made of the effect of that decision on the Scottish economy. [7859]

Michael Moore: I have had numerous discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a variety of subjects of importance to Scotland, both before and since the Budget. The VAT rise is part the Government's credible plan to tackle the largest deficit in peacetime history. Reducing this deficit that the Government inherited will support the recovery, creating the conditions needed for businesses to grow, which will benefit the Scottish economy.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment *(a)* he and *(b)* economists in his Department have made of the impact on the cost of living for the poorest people in Scotland of the decision to raise the standard rate of value added tax. [7860]

Michael Moore: The decision to raise the standard rate of value added tax was part of a progressive Budget, and part of a credible plan to tackle the largest budget deficit in peacetime, which this Government inherited. The top fifth of families by expenditure will pay nearly nine times more value added tax than the bottom fifth. The Budget commits to keeping everyday essentials such as food and children's clothing free from VAT.

Papal Visit to Scotland

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Roman Catholic Church, *(b)* Ministerial colleagues and *(c)* the Scottish Executive on the Papal visit to Scotland in 2010. [7786]

Michael Moore: The right hon. Lord Patten of Barnes is leading on Government arrangements for the Papal visit. Lord Patten has been appointed as the Prime Minister's personal representative and will oversee the co-ordination of all elements for which the Government have responsibility.

Retail Trade: Scotland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what meetings he *(a)* had before and *(b)* has had since the Budget Statement with Scottish retailers on the effect on the retail industry in Scotland of the decision to raise the standard rate of value added tax. [7858]

Michael Moore: I am always willing to hear the representations of Scottish retailers, and the Scotland Office has engaged with Scottish retailers on their importance to the economy. In order to protect the economic recovery, the record budget deficit must be tackled, otherwise it could lead to higher interest rates, more business failures and sharper rises in unemployment.

VAT: Scotland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the decision to raise the standard rate of value added tax on the cost of living for *(a)* Scottish families, *(b)* pensioners in Scotland and *(c)* unemployed people in Scotland. [7861]

Michael Moore: The rise in VAT is unavoidable if this Government are to act to address years of debt and unsustainable spending. The Budget confirmed that VAT on everyday essentials such as food and children's clothing will remain zero rated. Overall the Budget is fair and progressive—all sections of society contribute to tackling the deficit, but the richest pay more than the poorest.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which organisations he has met in Scotland to discuss the effects on Scotland of the decision to increase the standard rate of value added tax. [7862]

Michael Moore: I have met with numerous organisations to discuss a variety of issues. The Budget was discussed in a recent HM Treasury and Scotland Office seminar, with participants from Scottish business organisations, financial services, academia and the public sector. The VAT rise is unavoidable if this Government are to act to address years of debt and unsustainable spending. Failure to tackle the largest deficit in peacetime, which this Government inherited, could see higher interest rates and no real recovery.

Video Games

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what correspondence he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on *(a)* budgetary matters and *(b)* Government support for the computer and video games industry in advance of the Budget. [6333]

Michael Moore: There has been no formal exchange of correspondence with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the computer and video games industry but I and my officials had discussions with Treasury counterparts on a range of issues ahead of the Budget.

I will speak with both the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport and representatives from the industry in the near future, to discuss how the cuts to corporation tax to 24%, the rise in the employer national insurance threshold and other measures, announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his emergency Budget, will stimulate further growth and expansion of this sector.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department had with their Treasury counterparts to discuss (i) the Budget and (ii) support for the computer and video games industry before the Budget Statement of 22 June 2010. [6361]

Michael Moore: There was no specific meeting about the computer and video games industry. However, I and my officials held discussions with Treasury counterparts on a range of issues ahead of the Budget.

I will speak with both the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport and representatives from the industry in the near future, in discuss how the cuts to corporation tax to 24%, the rise in the employer national insurance threshold and other measures, announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his emergency Budget, will stimulate further growth and expansion of this sector.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

BP: Gulf of Mexico

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will hold discussions with BP to encourage the provision of training to volunteers to tackle the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. [7810]

Charles Hendry: I am in regular touch with BP about the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. I understand the company's partnership with local volunteer agencies provides help with mitigation activities in non-oil contaminated areas. Training is provided for all volunteers.

All oil-contaminated materials will be handled only by Qualified Community Responders and not by volunteers. This is paid work for which training is provided by BP.

More information can be found on the company's website:

http://www.alabamagulfresponse.com/go/doc/3055/591911

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7627]

Gregory Barker: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since its inception. [7483]

Gregory Barker: The Department spent £75,875 on logo design in 2008-09, £3,200 in 2009-10 and £0 in the current financial year. The Department does not store information on design costs incurred by its non-departmental public bodies and the cost of collating this would be disproportionate.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5544]

Gregory Barker: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since its inception. [7319]

Gregory Barker: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Energy: Subsidies

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on subsidies for gas production in each year since 1997. [6214]

Charles Hendry: No subsidies are paid for gas production in the UK.

Wind Power: Yorkshire and the Humber

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind farms have been built in each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [7857]

Charles Hendry: The Government do not hold information on renewable energy schemes by parliamentary constituency. The number of onshore wind farms, not including sites with less than two turbines, and not including sites with turbines under 10 kW, built in each district in Yorkshire and Humber in each of the last five years is as follows:

District	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Calderdale	1	—	—	—	—
City of Leeds	—	—	—	—	—
East Riding of Yorkshire	—	—	—	2	1
Harrogate	—	—	—	1	—
Kirklees	—	1	—	—	1
North Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	1
Rotherham	—	—	—	—	1

The Government are committed to the development of wind energy in the UK. As an island nation we have outstanding wind resources and wind energy is an indigenous source of energy which is needed to meet our renewable energy and climate change goals. The wind industry can be a key player in creating the investment, exports and jobs we need to bring back economic prosperity, and the UK is already a world leader in offshore wind.

We also want communities and individuals to benefit from the increase in renewable energy, including wind power, and to own a stake in our collective low carbon future.

This is why we committed in the coalition programme for government to encouraging more community-owned renewable energy and allowing communities that host renewable energy projects to keep the additional business rates they generate.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Attorney-General which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in those Departments. [7304]

The Solicitor-General: None of the Law Officers' Departments employ a specialised speech-writer. Speeches when required are prepared by departmental staff in addition to their other duties.

The Attorney-General's Office does not employ any special advisers.

PRIME MINISTER

Official Residences

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what *(a)* refurbishment and *(b)* redecoration has been undertaken of residential properties in the gift of the Government since 6 May 2010; and at what cost; [6318]

(2) what residential properties in the gift of the Government have been allocated to Ministers; which Minister has been allocated each accommodation; and which grace and favour properties will remain empty. [6319]

The Prime Minister: I currently have the use of the flat above No. 10 Downing street but will be moving into the residence above No. 11 Downing street when it has been refurbished. My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have use of the flat above No. 10 Downing street from the summer. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been allocated the use of the residence at No. 1 Carlton Gardens. The flats at Admiralty House are currently unoccupied.

For costs for the refurbishment of the No. 11 Downing street flat I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by the official spokesman on 24 May 2010. A copy of the transcript is available on the Number 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-briefings/2010/05/morning-press-briefing-from-monday-24-may-2010-50550

No refurbishment or redecoration has taken place in the flat above No. 10 Downing street or the flats at Admiralty House. Costs associated with 1 Carlton Gardens are a matter for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Representation of Welsh interests

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales on representation of Welsh interests on the *(a)* Social Justice Committee, *(b)* Economic Affairs Committee, *(c)* Coalition Committee, *(d)* European Affairs Committee and *(e)* National Security Council; and if he will make a statement. [7209]

The Prime Minister: I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales about issues which affect the people of Wales.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Brighton

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will visit creative and digital industries in Brighton to discuss the development of those industries; and if he will make a statement. [7162]

Mr Vaizey: I will be visiting Brighton next week to attend the Develop Conference, which brings together the European video game developer community.

Video games are one of our most successful creative industries and I look forward to hearing about the latest developments in this sector.

I understand that many of Brighton's leading video game developers will be attending, and I hope to be able to meet some of them.

Camelot Group

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will undertake an assessment of potential effects on levels of gambling of Camelot offering bill payment services through national lottery terminals. [7803]

John Penrose: The decision on whether to allow Camelot, the national lottery operator, to undertake any ancillary activity, including offering bill payment and mobile telephone top-up facilities through national lottery terminals, is one for the National Lottery Commission (NLC).

The NLC is currently considering responses to its public consultation on the proposal from Camelot to offer commercial services. As part of its considerations, the NLC will take into account the potential effect on players.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will require the National Lottery Commission to report to Parliament on the reasons for its decision on whether or not to allow Camelot to enter into the bill payment market when that decision is made. [7804]

John Penrose: The National Lottery Commission will publish a statement of reasons alongside its decision which will explain the reasons behind its decision. This document will be made available on the Commission's website:

www.natlotcomm.gov.uk

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the number of lottery transactions required to be made to meet the projections in Camelot's proposal to contribute to good causes from lottery receipts; and if he will assess the effect of any resultant increase in transactions on the lottery *(a)* playing and *(b)* bill payment services at peak times. [7805]

John Penrose: The projections set out by Camelot in its proposal to offer bill payments and mobile top-ups do not include any uplift in national lottery sales. The higher contributions to good causes projected are based only on the expected bill payment and mobile top-up transactions.

The National Lottery Commission is considering as part of its assessment of Camelot's proposals to enter the bill payment and mobile top-up market, what the potential impact is on the core business of the national lottery. If the Commission were to give consent to Camelot's proposals, it would ensure that appropriate monitoring measures are in place to assess the effect of commercial services on ticket sales.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has been informed of whether Camelot and Post Office Ltd have made an agreement to provide subsidy for sub-postmasters should Camelot be successful in its application to enter into the bill payment and post office services market; and if he will make a statement. [7806]

John Penrose: The Department is not aware of any such plans.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has commissioned or evaluated research into which socio-economic groups are more likely to make bill payments and top-up mobile telephones using electronic bill payment services in local retail outlets. [7807]

John Penrose: The Department has made no such assessment. The National Lottery Commission is responsible for assessing the proposals from the National Lottery operator to offer services of this type.

Copyright: Music

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on extending the copyright term for music recordings; and if he will make a statement. [7266]

Mr Vaizey: Baroness Wilcox, the Minister with responsibility for Intellectual Property in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and I have both received representations from the music industry (UK Music, BPI and PPL) on a number of occasions recently about progress in securing an agreement in Europe on this issue.

The Government have confirmed their support for this proposal, but it has not so far received the necessary support at EU level which would be required for it to become law.

Film: Finance

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 15W, on the British Film Institute: UK Film Council, when he expects to announce the outcome of his reassessment of Government support for film. [7988]

Mr Vaizey: I intend to announce details of the review soon.

Departmental Offices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6566]

John Penrose: There are currently no plans to relocate this Department's officials to Bassetlaw.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the estimated gross construction cost is of *(a)* the 11 apartment blocks in the Olympic Village and *(b)* the Olympic Village. [6931]

Hugh Robertson: The gross cost for construction of the residential blocks of the Olympic village is currently estimated at £1.008 billion as at 31 March 2010, including ground-floor retail units, underground parking, landscaping, games-time overlay (such as additional partitions and bathrooms) and post-games transformation costs.

The gross construction cost of the entire Olympic village is currently estimated at £1.090 billion, including the community projects of the Chobham Academy, a polyclinic and multi-storey car park.

The forecast public sector funding contribution by the ODA towards the overall cost of the village (including sales and marketing costs which are not included in the figures above) is £687 million, as set out in the most recent quarterly economic report published in May 2010.

Olympic Games 2012: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many businesses located in Dartford constituency have been awarded contracts for work on London 2012 Olympics projects. [6842]

Hugh Robertson: Information on businesses, registered in the Dartford constituency that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where my hon. Friend will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

Olympic Games 2012: East Midlands

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the net financial effect on the east midlands of the London 2012 Olympics. [6662]

Hugh Robertson: I have not made a specific estimate of the net financial effect from the 2012 games on the east midlands. However, the east midlands stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations.

Information on businesses in the east midlands that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where my hon. Friend will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

Olympic Games 2012: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many residents of *(a)* St Albans and *(b)* Hertfordshire are employed (i) by the London Organisational Committee of the Olympic Games, (ii) by the Olympic Delivery Authority and (iii) at the London 2012 Olympics site; what steps his Department is taking to increase employment opportunities created by the hosting of the London 2012 Olympics; and how many jobs in Hertfordshire he expects to be created by the London 2012 Olympics. [6887]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd (LOCOG) is a private company and so does not report its staff figures to my Department. Its annual report, which includes information about the numbers of staff it employs, is available at:

www.london2012.com

As at May 2010 the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) had 218 directly employed members of staff, of which one resided in St Albans and five in Hertfordshire.

The ODA publishes information on the Olympic park contractor work force in its quarterly "Jobs, Futures, Skills" newsletter. This provides a breakdown of the work force resident in the host boroughs, London, and outside of London. The latest publication shows that at the end of March 2010 of a work force of 6,442, 41% reside outside of London. It is unable to provide a breakdown for local level outside of the host boroughs.

The ODA forecasts that 30,000 people will work on the Olympic park and village over the life of the construction programme. LOCOG estimates that during games-time it will require a work force of approximately 6,000 paid staff, up to 70,000 volunteers and 100,000 contracted staff. There has been no specific assessment of the numbers that will be employed from Hertfordshire.

The ODA and its partners have put a range of measures in place to help local people in particular access training and employment opportunities on the site. These include investing in training and apprenticeship opportunities. Vacancies are offered exclusively to the host borough employment brokerages and Jobcentre Plus offices in the area for a period of 48 hours. Vacancies unfilled after this time are advertised across London for a further 24 hours and after this are made available across the UK through the national Jobcentre Plus network. LOCOG will publish its employment and skills strategy later this year.

TRANSPORT

A3

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projection he has made of the traffic levels on the A3 between Liphook and Petersfield following the opening of the Hindhead tunnel; and what those traffic levels were on that stretch of road in each of the last five years. [6812]

Mike Penning: It is forecast that traffic levels on the A3 between Liphook and Petersfield following the opening of the Hindhead tunnel will be around 38,000 vehicles per average day.

By comparison the flow on the A3 in the five years between 2004 and 2009 remained consistent at 35,000 vehicles per average day.

The A3 Hindhead scheme, including a 1.2 mile tunnel under the Devils Punchbowl Site of Special Scientific Interest, started construction in January 2007 and is planned to open in early July 2011.

The section of A3 for which traffic flows have been requested lies to the south of the scheme.

The increase in traffic on scheme opening is largely due to drivers returning to the A3 from other routes used to avoid the congestion at the A3/A287 traffic lights in Hindhead.

The forecast includes a relatively small amount of traffic generated as a result of the journey time improvement and reliability delivered by the scheme. This aspect of the increase is small, due to network constraints through Guildford and at M25 J10.

Departmental Offices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6554]

Norman Baker: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Official Cars

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what conditions apply to former Ministers with official cars using them to attend party political events; [5980]

(2) what the cost has been of providing official Government cars to former Ministers since the general election. [5981]

Mike Penning: The use of official cars by former Ministers is exceptional and on the advice of the security authorities. Use of official cars by former Ministers continues to be governed by the principles set out in Section 10 of the Ministerial Code.

In line with successive Administrations, the Government do not comment on security issues.

Freight: Carbon Emissions

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the effect on levels of carbon dioxide emissions consequent on the transfer of a kilometre tonne of freight from road to rail transport. [7830]

Mike Penning: In April 2009 the Department for Transport published its mode shift benefit values, which came into effect on 1 April 2010 and will apply until 31 March 2015. These are designed to accurately reflect the costs to society of HGVs on the roads and the economic and environmental benefits—including carbon dioxide reductions—to be gained from shifting freight from road to rail or water.

Large Goods Vehicles: A1

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the merits of prohibiting heavy goods vehicles from travelling in the outside lane on the stretches of the A1 where the road is a dual carriageway. [5480]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* The Highways Agency does consider and, following successful trials, has implemented restrictions on heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using the overtaking lanes on motorways and trunk roads to ease congestion. Examples of this are on the M42 between J10 and 11, and the A14 in Northamptonshire.

Similarly, in May 2010 the Highways Agency made permanent restrictions on two sections on the A1(M) southbound in County Durham at junction 63 to north of junction 62 at Lumley Road Bridge, Great Lumley and at junction 61 north of Coxhoe to north of junction 60 at Bishop Middleham. At these sections HGVs are restricted from using lane 2 (the right hand lane in the direction of travel) between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm, seven days a week.

The agency has also considered introducing overtaking restrictions for HGVs on other sections of the A1, including A1 south of the A57 at Markham Moor; A1 south of Grantham; A1 south of Stamford (between the A6121 and Carpenter's Lodge Roundabout); A1 junction 49 (junction of A1/A168) to start of A1(M) at junction 56; end of A1(M) at junction 65 to A1/A697 junction; B6345 overbridge at Felton, Northumberland to approximately one mile north of B1340 overbridge at Denwick, Northumberland; and the dual carriageway section near North Charlton, Northumberland. However, analysis has shown there to be either insufficient justification or an adverse impact on safety for traffic emerging from side roads at these locations, thus discounting the introduction of HGV overtaking restrictions.

When considering whether to prohibit heavy goods vehicles from lane 2 on the A1 dual carriageway the Highways Agency considers whether:

there is insufficient HGV traffic volume;

there are frequent at-grade junctions that break the flow of HGVs naturally;

the topography of the area is fairly flat;

the gradient is only for short lengths.

Motorways: Closures

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to inform motorists who are not in the immediate vicinity of motorway closures that closures are taking place; and if he will make a statement. [3484]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 22 June 2010]*: The Highways Agency already takes a variety of steps to inform motorists about both closures and other events that might have an impact on their journey on the motorway and trunk road network.

For drivers who have already embarked on their journey, variable message signs (VMS) are used to inform them of any problems ahead. These can be used both in the immediate vicinity of the closure, to give drivers useful advice and information, and at a more strategic level, to suggest alternative routes that will take road users around the closure, and thus prevent excessive delays.

Where closures are planned as part of major works, advanced warning signs are used at the roadside to inform drivers, giving them the opportunity to plan their travel more effectively.

In addition to VMS, information relating to road conditions on the Highways Agency's network can be sought through a variety of media channels prior to starting any journey. Such channels include the Traffic England website, accessible at:

www.highways.gov.uk/traffic

a Highways Agency iPhone app, Traffic Radio (available on DAB) and various telephone lines. Finally, the Highways Agency's National Traffic Control Centre passes information on a continuous basis to media partners who use this in travel bulletins on TV and radio.

Railways: Scotland

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers on funding from his Department's Railways for All Fund for improvements in access to railway stations in Scotland; and how much funding for such improvements will be provided in 2010-11. [7037]

Mrs Villiers: We have not discussed Railways for All funding with Scottish Executive Ministers, but officials meet regularly to discuss the programme. £390,000 has been allocated to Transport Scotland from the Department for Transport's Access for All Fund for Small Schemes in 2010-11. A decision on any further spending will be made once the comprehensive spending review has been carried out.

In addition, 13 stations in Scotland are receiving accessible step free routes under the main Access for All Fund which is delivered by Network Rail and funded by addition to the Regulatory Asset Base.

Railways: Standards

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the figures for *(a)* punctuality and reliability and *(b)* passengers in excess numbers were for rail services on the St Albans to London route in each month since November 2009. [7115]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold disaggregated performance data for St Albans to London. However the following table shows the public performance measure (PPM) for all First Capital Connect services since November 2009. The Period PPM column shows performance in the period itself, while the PPM MAA column shows the moving annual average for the previous 12 months. PPM combines figures for punctuality and reliability into a single performance measure.

%

Period	*Period PPM*	*PPM MAA*
15 November to 12 December 2009	85.8	90.7
13 December to 9 January 2010	73.0	89.5
10 January to 6 February 2010	85.0	88.9
7 February to 6 March 2010	88.4	89.5
7 March to 31 March 2010	92.6	89.4
1 April to 1 May 2010	93.0	89.5
2 May to 29 May 2010	93.7	89.6

Period	*Period PPM*	*% PPM MAA*
30 May to 26 June 2010	90.4	89.3

Information relating to passengers in excess numbers for rail services on the St Albans to London route is not measured on the basis sought and is therefore not available. The information requested is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office of Rail Regulation within its 'National Rail Trends Yearbook'. The latest published data relates to passenger journeys in 2008-09. Chapter 7 of the latest update of 'National Rail Trends' contains this data and is available on the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2026

Roads: Accidents

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents have occurred in each police force area in the East of England since 1997. [7051]

Mike Penning: The number of reported personal injury road accidents in each police force area in the east of England Government office region since 1997 are shown in the following table:

Reported personal injury accidents in the east of England Government office region by police force area: 1997 to 2009

	Police force area								
	Metropolitan police[1]								
	County of Essex	*County of Hertfordshire*	*Cambridgeshire*	*Norfolk*	*Suffolk*	*Bedfordshire*	*Hertfordshire*[1]	*Essex*[1]	*All police forces*
1997	447	741	3,492	2,703	2,224	2,198	4,097	6,439	22,341
1998	386	727	3,411	2,778	2,251	2,168	4,132	6,435	22,288
1999	388	722	3,161	2,769	2,298	2,000	3,995	6,455	21,788
2000	0	208	3,486	2,645	2,312	2,035	4,704	6,985	22,375
2001	0	0	3,503	2,789	2,356	1,983	4,518	6,773	21,922
2002	0	0	3,417	2,590	2,300	1,826	4,521	6,408	21,062
2003	0	0	3,408	2,618	2,341	1,639	4,247	6,182	20,435
2004	0	0	3,450	2,707	2,220	1,659	4,231	6,131	20,398
2005	0	0	3,384	2,653	2,237	1,700	3,954	5,595	19,523
2006	0	0	3,112	2,354	2,087	1,680	3,647	5,330	18,210
2007	0	0	2,888	2,411	2,076	1,740	3,587	5,004	17,706
2008	0	0	2,783	2,074	2,061	1,678	3,098	4,455	16,149
2009	0	0	2,668	1,962	1,947	1,574	2,791	4,232	15,174

[1] Until 2000 Metropolitan police patrolled some parts of Hertfordshire and Essex. From 2000 onwards these areas were patrolled by Hertfordshire and Essex police respectively.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were injured in work-related road traffic accidents in each year from 1997 to 2009. [8021]

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were killed in work-related road traffic incidents in each year from 1997 to 2009. [8017]

Mike Penning: The following table shows the number of vehicle drivers/riders and pedestrians killed and injured in reported road accidents while travelling for work or involved in 'on the road work' in each year since 2005. It also shows the total number of casualties in road accidents involving a driver or rider travelling as part of work or a pedestrian injured in the course of 'on the road' work.

Reported vehicle drivers/riders and pedestrians injured at work, and all casualties in such accidents: GB 2005-09

Casualties

	Year of accident				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Driver or rider travelling as part of work					
Killed	168	152	158	132	95
Injured	20,843	22,617	22,107	19,969	18,296
Total	21,011	22,769	22,265	20,101	18,391
Pedestrian injured at work					
Killed	16	11	10	5	7
Injured	656	507	550	505	428
Total	672	518	560	510	435
All casualties in accidents involving a driver or rider travelling as part of work or a pedestrian injured at work[1]					
Killed	866	862	892	750	595
Injured	63,046	66,857	65,201	60,056	55,788
Total	63,912	67,719	66,093	60,806	56,383

[1] Includes drivers, riders and pedestrians at work as well as other casualties in accidents involving them.

Notes:

1. This information has only been collected since 2005.
2. Pedestrians injured in the course of 'on the road work' include workers involved in traffic control, postal work and other delivery services as well as those working on road maintenance, although this will only have been reported if it was immediately apparent to the reporting police officer.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent under the Communications Allowance in 2009-10. [6755]

Mr Heath: The provisional outturn figure for 2009-10 was £3,959,000. Communications Allowance was suspended by the Members' Estimate Committee with effect from 1 January 2010.

The Expenses Scheme for hon. Members is now the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

HEALTH

Bowel Cancer: Screening

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of issuing a bowel cancer screening test; [7127]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the average cost of issuing and analysing a returned bowel cancer screening test in England; [7128]

(3) how many people were diagnosed with bowel cancer as a direct result of taking part in the bowel cancer screening programme in each year since the implementation of that programme; [7129]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost of the bowel cancer screening programme in each year since 2006; [7104]

(5) how many bowel cancer screening invitations were issued in each year since 2006; [7105]

(6) what criteria were used to determine the age of 60 as the threshold for the bowel cancer screening programme in England. [7645]

Mr Burstow: The national health service bowel cancer screening programme in England began by inviting people aged 60 to 69 to be screened because over 80% of bowel cancers are diagnosed in those aged over 60. Although the pilot on which the programme was based invited people aged 50 to 69, those in their 60s were more likely to complete a testing kit. There was also insufficient endoscopy capacity at the time to invite a wider age range. This decision was informed by a formal options appraisal undertaken in 2004 by the School for Health and Related Research (ScHARR) at the University of Sheffield. The programme is currently being extended to people aged 70 to their 75th birthday, and the review of the Cancer Reform Strategy will consider how best we can extend screening to people in their 50s.

The number of screening invitations issued in each year since 2006 is shown in the following table:

	Invites issued
2006	54,768
2007	740,009
2008	1,970,511
2009	2,467,821
2010 (up to April)	757,901

The number of cancers detected by the programme in each year since 2006 is shown in the following table:

	Cancers detected
2006	41
2007	562
2008	1,600
2009	2,216
2010 (up to April)	587

The cost of the programme in each year since 2006 is shown in the following table:

	Funding (£ million)
2006-07	10
2007-08	27.5
2008-09	55
2009-10	76

Funding for the programme will rise to around £120 million per year once the age extension to people aged 70 to their 75th birthday is fully implemented.

The average cost of issuing and analysing a bowel cancer testing kit is a local operational cost, which is not held centrally. The ScHARR 2004 options appraisal estimated that the cost of a faecal occult blood testing kit was £10 per person invited, comprising the cost of two kits (to cover repeat tests and non-compliance), analysis of the kits and sending results letters. An additional £1.74 per person invited was estimated for administration costs.

Carers: Young People

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of carers under the age of 18 *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in Devon and *(c)* in Totnes constituency. [6107]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

There is no national data collected as to the number of young carers identified at local authority or constituency level.

The 2001 Census "snap-shot" indicated that 139,000 children and young people across England were offering some care. Of these, some 22,000 (16%) were reported to be caring for substantial periods of time—between 20 and 50 hours or more per week. These figures are likely to represent an under-estimate as caring roles resulting from parental substance misuse are not included.

The 2011 Census will provide more up to date national and local authority level data on the number of young carers.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of people under the age of 18 years who provided care for a parent with an alcohol-related condition in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [6128]

Tim Loughton: I have been asked to reply.

There is no centrally collected national data as to the number of people under the age of 18 years providing care for a parent with an alcohol-related condition.

The 2001 Census day "snap-shot" indicated that some 139,000 children across England were offering some care to family, neighbours, or friends. Of these, some

22,000 (16%) were reported to be caring for substantial periods of time—between 20 and 50 hours or more per week. These figures are likely to represent an under-estimate as caring roles resulting from parental substance misuse are not included.

The National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, 2004, found that up to 1.3 million children live with parents who misuse alcohol.

CJD

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and *(b)* sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease were diagnosed in humans in each of the last five years; and how many such cases were as a result of blood transfusions. [7793]

Anne Milton: Data on diagnosis are not held centrally for sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (sCJD). For variant CJD (vCJD) the number of diagnoses in each year was as follows:

2005: six cases;
2006: six cases;
2007: one case;
2008: one case; and
2009: three cases.

Of these cases, two cases diagnosed in 2006 were associated with blood transfusions in 1999 or earlier from donors who later went on to develop clinical vCJD.

Data on deaths supplied by the National CJD Surveillance Unit are shown in the following table:

Deaths from sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (sCJD) and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in the UK 2005-09

Year of death	*sCJD*	*sCJD-blood transfusion associated*	*vCJD*	*vCJD-blood transfusion associated*
2005	66	0	5	0
2006	69	0	4	1
2007	63	0	4	1
2008	87	0	1	0
2009	78	0	3	0

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the incidence of (i) sporadic and (ii) variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and the possibility of a link in cases of individuals with different genotypes. [7794]

Anne Milton: Together with the Scottish Government, the Department funds Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) surveillance in the United Kingdom through the National CJD Surveillance Unit (NCJDSU) based in Edinburgh. The unit was set up in 1990.

All cases of definite or probable variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), where the genotype is known, have been methionine homozygous at codon 129 of the *PRNP* gene. As reported in the NCJDSU's 17th annual report in 2008 the unit was referred an individual who met the clinical criteria in life for possible vCJD and who was heterozygous (methionine/valine) at codon 129 of the *PRNP* gene. As consent for a post-mortem was not given in this case, the investigations which could have led to a definite or probable diagnosis could not take place.

CJD: Screening

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the consequences of Amorfix's decision to suspend development of its proposed blood test for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) after the latest versions of the test did not yield positive results; and if his Department will recognise that prion filtration is the only safe and effective method for protecting red blood cells from vCJD contamination. [7946]

Anne Milton: The Department recognises the difficulties in developing an effective blood test for the abnormal prion protein associated with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). The Department is aware of other companies, other than Amorfix, and academic institutions developing tests and will monitor progress.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissue and Organs (SaBTO) on the use of prion filtration remain under consideration by the Department, the clinical safety of prion filtered blood is still being assessed, and further studies of the efficacy of prion filters are in progress.

Since the theoretical risk of vCJD transmission through blood was first identified as a possibility in 1996, a series of precautionary measures to reduce the risk of vCJD transmission through the blood supply and products made by fractionating plasma, including:

From December 1997, blood components, plasma products or tissues obtained from any individual who later develops vCJD, have been withdrawn/recalled to prevent their use;

From October 1999, white blood cells (which may carry a risk of transmitting vCJD) have been reduced in all blood used for transfusion, a process known as leucodepletion or leucoreduction;

Following the report of the first possible case of transmission of vCJD by blood transfusion in December 2003, individuals who had themselves received a transfusion of blood components since January 1980 were excluded from donating blood. This took effect from April 2004; and

In July 2004, this exclusion criterion for blood donation was extended to include two new groups; (i) previously transfused platelet donors and (ii) donors who were unsure if they had previously had a blood transfusion. This now applies to donors who have been transfused anywhere in the world.

Clinical Physiologists: Regulation

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the Modernising Scientific Careers programme on the timetable for statutory regulation of clinical physiologists. [6766]

Anne Milton: Ministers are currently considering decisions about whether, and if so how, to regulate healthcare scientists, including clinical physiologists, within the context of the coalition Government's wider health strategy.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget is of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS for external consultancy advice in 2010-11. [5490]

Mr Simon Burns: Planned consultancy expenditure from the Department's administration budgets in 2010-11 is £1.8 million.

The Department's plans on programme spend for consultancy have not yet been determined but plans will be in line with the tighter spending controls announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 24 May.

The Department does not hold NHS budget information on external consultancy advice for 2010-11.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7509]

Mr Simon Burns: The information on the cost of televisions purchased is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7610]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department operates two main websites:

The Department of Health corporate website; and

NHS Choices

Design and layout costs are included within the overall costs of each website's managed service and cannot be separated for each year.

In February 2010 an additional £40,425 was spent on redesigning the home page of the Department's corporate website, in response to user testing and feedback.

Since 27 June 2007 the Department has reduced the total number of websites that it operates, from 196 to 71, to meet its obligations under Transformational Government. The Department will continue to reduce this number by the Cabinet Office deadline of July 2011.

Given the high number of websites that have been in existence since 1997, it is not possible to provide information on design costs for all of these, as this would incur disproportionate costs.

Design costs for websites belonging to agencies and non-department public bodies are also included within the overall costs of each organisation's managed service and cannot be separated for each year.

Departmental Offices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6558]

Mr Simon Burns: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8319]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not recorded by the Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether equality impact assessments will be used in determining the areas of his Department's budget in respect of which spending will be reduced. [7817]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken into account when assessing policy options in the context of its departmental savings, in compliance with our obligations under the gender, race and disability duties set out in the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7493]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department currently employs a team of four civil servants to write speeches for Ministers. None of these officials is a senior civil servant.

General Practitioners

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of occasions in which patients saw a GP other than their registered GP in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [7775]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold information on the number of occasions in which patients see a general practitioner (GP) in another practice rather than their registered GP.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of GP practices which use 0870 and 0845 premium rate telephone numbers for booking appointments. [5834]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health Professions: English Language

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue guidance on the level of competence in the English language expected from medical professionals, with particular reference to those responsible for delivering out-of-hours care. [6599]

Anne Milton: The Government are committed to ensuring that foreign healthcare professionals are not allowed to work in the national health service unless they have proven their competence and language skills. We are working closely with the General Medical Council and others to explore a number of options to ensure that all overseas doctors meet these stringent requirements.

The Department of Health issued guidance in February 2010 under "Delivering Quality in Primary Care: Medical Performers Lists"—a copy has been placed in the Library—which reminded primary care trusts that anyone they appoint to their medical performers list must be competent in English. Clearly, the precise requirements for individual posts will vary. We will be considering whether further guidance on this issue is necessary.

Health Services: Greater Manchester

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the results of the review of the Greater Manchester Making it Better Programme. [7844]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the local national health service and as such the information requested is not held centrally. Information on the cost of the Making it Better programme can be obtained from the Making it Better implementation team direct, through the North West Strategic Health Authority.

Health: Tobacco

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the evidence on the impact of banning the retail display of tobacco products; and if he will make a statement. [6548]

Anne Milton: Discussions are taking place across Government to decide how best to tackle this issue in the context of our focus on public health and our priorities, given the challenges facing business competition and costs.

Leeds General Infirmary

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with NHS organisations on the Cardiothoracic Surgery Centre at Leeds General Infirmary; what plans his Department has for the future of that centre; and if he will make a statement. [7545]

Mr Simon Burns: We have had no formal discussions with national health service organisations on the Cardiothoracic Surgery Centre at Leeds General Infirmary. However, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health visited the Leeds General Infirmary on 14 May 2010, and was given a tour of the hospital's cardiology services. This Government have pledged that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not driven from the top down. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has outlined new, strengthened criteria that he expects decisions on NHS service changes to meet. According to this criteria, they must focus on improving patient outcomes, consider patient choice, have support from general practitioner commissioners and be based on sound clinical evidence.

Mental Health Services: Children

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services for children who require emergency mental health assessment and support; [6286]

(2) how he plans to ensure that tier 4 child and adolescent mental health services appropriate for children with autism are available to all children who require them. [6287]

Mr Burstow: The Department monitors the availability of 24 hour cover to meet the urgent mental health needs of children and young people through the Vital Signs Monitoring Return. The latest available figures, for the quarter ending 31 March 2010, show 139 primary care trusts (PCTs) with a comprehensive 24 hour cover service available throughout the PCT and 13 PCTs with plans and protocols in place, some services in place and some still to be developed so as to provide cover across the whole PCT. The Department is drawing on findings emerging from early visits of the National Support Team for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) to inform local conversations about improving children's emotional health and well-being across the country.

Appropriate tier 4 CAMHS should be available to all children who require them, including children with autism. We are committed to improving the quality of services to patients. We will establish an independent national health service board to allocate resources and provide commissioning guidelines and will ensure that there is a stronger voice for patients locally.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the provision of an appropriate level of healthcare for service veterans, with particular reference to mental health services. [6751]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to providing effective, through-life, health services for our service and ex-service personnel.

This important work is overseen by a Partnership Board involving senior staff from the Department and the Ministry of Defence and the health departments of the devolved Administrations.

We are currently undertaking community mental health pilots for ex-service personnel at six national health service trusts across the United Kingdom. The final pilot, in Scotland, is due to be completed in April 2011. From these pilots, best practice will be identified and provide input for planning future provision by the NHS of mental health services across the UK from 2011-12.

We have also made an additional £2 million available to allow the Department of Health to work with strategic partners, including Combat Stress, to further provide better services in primary, secondary and tertiary care.

The Prime Minister has asked the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to study the relationship between the NHS and armed forces personnel, with a focus on mental health.

NHS: Accountability

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the accountability of local NHS bodies to the public they serve; and whether he plans to improve such arrangements. [6383]

Mr Simon Burns: We have assessed the accountability of local national health service bodies to the public they serve and have concluded that arrangements need to be strengthened if we are to ensure the NHS is increasingly informed by and responsive to the views and feedback of patients and public. We plan to set out our proposals for improvement in the forthcoming White Paper.

NHS: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of occasions on which information relating to a patient has been requested by a doctor other than the doctor with whom the patient is registered in the last 12 months. [7776]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many summary health care records have been added to his Department's database in each week of 2010. [7777]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is provided in the following table:

2010

Report week (Saturday to Friday)		*Number of summary care records (SCR) created*
Start date	*End date*	
2 January	8 January	11,249
9 January	15 January	24,883
16 January	22 January	46,594
23 January	29 January	42,315
30 January	5 February	42,618
6 February	12 February	27,470
13 February	19 February	23,194
20 February	26 February	53,493
27 February	5 March	47,819
6 March	12 March	22,060
13 March	19 March	44,272
20 March	26 March	5,599
27 March	2 April	0
3 April	9 April	1,987
10 April	16 April	48,015
17 April	23 April	52,157
24 April	30 April	31,931
1 May	7 May	6,488
8 May	14 May	12,793
15 May	21 May	11,474
22 May	28 May	63,339
29 May	4 June	66,852
5 June	11 June	57,069
12 June	18 June	97,623
19 June	25 June	96,142
26 June	2 July	101,872
	Total	1,039,308

We believe the processes that are currently in place relating to the creation of summary care records need to be reviewed to ensure that both the information that patients receive, and the process by which they opt-out, are as clear and simple as possible.

We will work closely with relevant partner organisations to resolve these issues. Strategic health authorities have been informed that no further information letters should be sent out to patients about the SCR until after that review has concluded.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GP and *(b)* out-of-hours surgeries have registered for the summary health care record scheme. [7778]

Mr Simon Burns: As at 2 July 2010, 323 general practitioner practices, and 37 out of hours service sites, were live to use summary care records (SCRs). Being 'live' refers to a health care setting starting to work with the SCR system, by creating and maintaining records for patients under their care, or by viewing a patient's SCR to aid delivery of care.

NHS: Drugs

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future appraisal of drugs for the treatment of ultra orphan diseases. [7106]

Mr Simon Burns: In the great majority of cases the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) will continue to appraise important new drugs. However, for a small number of drugs for very small patient populations, where it is not appropriate for NICE to carry out an appraisal, it may be more appropriate for a drug to be considered by the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services as part of the arrangements for national specialised commissioning.

NHS: Internet

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the KPMG report on the effectiveness of the NHS Choices and NHS Direct websites. [6919]

Mr Simon Burns: We are not able to publish the requested report as it is central to the formulation of Government policy. The KPMG report on NHS Choices and NHS Direct is informing the Department's information strategy.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what websites have .nhs.uk domains. [6920]

Mr Simon Burns: As at 30 June 2010, there were 4,292 live websites with the .nhs.uk suffix within the English national health service web estate. A list of these has been placed in the Library.

NHS: VAT

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much value added tax was paid by the NHS in the most recent year for which figures are available. [7272]

Mr Simon Burns: The data are not held centrally.

Nurses: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to retain nurses within the profession in light of the planned two-year public sector pay freeze. [7392]

Anne Milton: We will continue to monitor the position of the work force, including nurses, during the period of the pay freeze. We will look closely at the rates of vacant posts, leavers from the national health service and joiners to the NHS. Currently the position is strong, with the latest data showing that the vacancy rate for qualified nurses, midwives and health visitors stands at 0.7% (2,088 posts); the leavers rate at 6.5%; and the joiners rate at 7.5%.

Nurses: Training

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake an investigation of the arrangements for training nurses for the purposes of raising the standard of nursing in NHS hospitals. [7083]

Anne Milton: The vast majority of our nurses provide excellent care, although ongoing education and training is vital to keeping standards high.

The Department has been working with the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) to develop an explicit set of statements which will outline what good nursing care looks like. This work will be ready in the autumn and will apply to the entire nursing workforce, including health care assistants.

We are determined to raise professional standards at every opportunity and to work with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the RCN to achieve this.

The arrangement for the training of nurses is regularly reviewed.

Parkinson's Disease: Drugs

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has received any representations on the availability of Sinemet in the last *(a)* week, *(b)* month and *(c)* two months; and if he will make a statement; [7176]

(2) whether his Department has had any recent discussions with Merck on the availability of Sinemet. [7177]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has received representations from hon. Members (including the hon. Member's questions) and members of the public about the availability of Sinemet (co-careldopa) as follows:

Date received	*Number*
2010	
5 May to 4 June	3
5 June to 29 June	3
30 June to 6 July	5

Patients' Rights: EU Action

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to participate in the European Project for Assessing Patients' Rights. [7553]

Mr Simon Burns: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Peterborough Primary Care Trust: Debts

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive the report by the East of England strategic health authority on the deficit accumulated by NHS Peterborough in the financial year 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [7944]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not commissioned a report on the deficit accumulated by Peterborough primary care trust. However, the East of England strategic health authority does report to the Department on a monthly basis on the financial position of its national health service trusts.

Prescription Drugs

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the number of people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire who were given regular prescriptions for (i) sleeping tablets and (ii) anti-depressants in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [7773]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of people receiving a medicine, and whether this is under repeat prescription arrangements, is not collected centrally. Information on the number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England and in Gloucestershire primary care trust (PCT) for the latest available financial years is shown in the following table:

Thousand

	Hypnotics[1] *(for insomnia)*	*Antidepressants*[2]
England		
2006-07	9,768.0	31,327.2
2007-08	9,889.9	33,967.5
2008-09	9,977.1	36,180.5
2009-10	10,123.2	39,736.1
Gloucestershire PCT		
2006-07[3]	136.8	370.9
2007-08	141.3	403.8
2008-09	143.2	433.5
2009-10	148.9	481.9

[1] As listed in British National Formulary section 4.1.1—hypnotics.
[2] As listed in British National Formulary section 4.3—antidepressants.
[3] Includes predecessor organisations—Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT, West Gloucestershire PCT and Cotswold and Vale PCT.
Source:
Prescribing Analysis and Cost tool

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to exempt medication for cystic fibrosis from prescription charges. [6915]

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to change the current system of prescription charges. [7202]

Mr Simon Burns: Any decisions on future changes to the system of prescription charges and exemptions will be dependent on our future financial settlements.

Prion Diseases: Health Services

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he next expects his Department's Prion Working Group to meet to discuss the *(a)* progress of the Platelet Receptor Inhibition for Ischemic Syndrome Management trials and *(b)* implementation of the P-Capt filter; [7404]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of progress of the Platelet Receptor Inhibition for Ischemic Syndrome Management trials and the P-Capt filter; and when he expects those trials to be completed. [7405]

Anne Milton: The Prion Working Group reports to the UK Blood Services, not to the Department. The Working Group will next meet on 2 September 2010, and updates on the P-Capt filter and the prion filtered red cells in surgery and multi-transfused patients (PRISM) trial are both likely to be on the agenda. This PRISM trial, which is designed to investigate adverse events, especially those related to the development of antibodies to red blood cells following transfusion of filtered red cells, is unrelated to the Platelet Receptor Inhibition for Ischemic Syndrome Management study otherwise known as PRISM-PLUS.

The PRISM trial is expected to be completed by mid-2012. Animal studies of the efficacy of filters using a hamster model are due to be complete by mid-2012 and studies in sheep by mid-2014. The UK Health Department's independent expert Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs will review data from these studies as they become available.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to implement the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs for the introduction of prion filtration via the P-Capt filter for blood destined for children born since 1 January 1996. [7792]

Anne Milton: The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs on the use of prion filtration are under consideration by the Department.

Warfarin

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will consider the merits of making warfarin treatments available free on the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [7203]

(2) how many people were prescribed warfarin in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; [7204]

(3) what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of providing warfarin free on the NHS. [7205]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of people receiving a medicine is not collected centrally. In 2009, around 8,234,900 prescription items for warfarin were dispensed in the community in England at a net ingredient cost to the national health service of around £18,608,200.[1]

In addition, prescription charges paid at the point of dispensing for warfarin prescription items generated income of around £923,800[2] in 2009.

Any decisions on future changes to the system of prescription charges and exemptions will be dependent on our future financial settlements.

[1] Prescription Cost Analysis system.

[2] NHS Prescription Services Information System. Excludes items dispensed to patients holding a pre-payment certificate.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [6186]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England and Scotland report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency. [6193]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Affordable Housing Delivery Commission

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the future of the commission on affordable housing delivery chaired by Lord Best. [7749]

Andrew Stunell: The commission on the council role in new house-building was established jointly by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association. The commission expects to make its report to the Department and the Local Government Association later this year.

Affordable Housing: Ashton-in-Makerfield

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in Makerfield constituency. [6204]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Affordable Housing: Bristol

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in Bristol North West constituency. [7787]

Andrew Stunell: The number of surplus properties in the social sector is not collected centrally. Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Affordable Housing: Greater Manchester

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in Stretford and Urmston constituency. [5845]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Affordable Housing: Houghton-le-Spring

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [6082]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Affordable Housing: Standards

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 312W, what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association properties in each local authority remaining to be refurbished under the Decent Homes programme on 31 March (i) 2010, (ii) 2011 and (iii) 2012. [7818]

Grant Shapps: I have put the information requested for local authorities in the Library of the House. The Tenant Services Authority has made projections nationally up to March 2011 but has not done so up to March 2012 at local authority level because such projections would be inaccurate. The Regulatory Statistical Return from housing associations does not collect projections of numbers of non decent homes. These figures would have been lower had funding reductions of £150 million not been made to the Decent Homes programme in July 2009.

Affordable Housing: Worsley

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. [6081]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Council Housing: Construction

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the £2.6 million funding previously agreed for new council homes in the London borough of Tower Hamlets is subject to the Government's review of public spending. [5835]

Andrew Stunell: The Homes and Communities Agency entered into a Local Authority New Build Grant Agreement with the London borough of Tower Hamlets in February 2010. It is contractually committed to support delivery of 26 new council homes in Tower Hamlets, and is therefore not subject to the Government's review of public spending.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Homes and Communities Agency previously agreed funding for the Bow Cross, Leopold and Holland estates in the London borough of Tower Hamlets is subject to the Government's review of public spending. [5836]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit. It has led us to identify savings across Government, starting with the £6 billion of immediate savings this year that we announced on 24 May. Bow Cross and Leopold are part of the Kickstart projects that were successful at the due diligence process under round 2 of Kickstart and still subject to approval. The Holland Estates is a National Affordable Housing programme project. Bids for this project received in January are still being appraised. A review of these and other outstanding projects will be undertaken by the HCA, once the final funding position for 2010-11 is clear.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government plan to bring forward a third round of proposals for funding for new council homes. [5837]

Andrew Stunell: We have no plans to continue a funding programme exclusively for the provision of new council houses. Local authorities are however free to bid for support from the National Affordable Housing Programme once all the funds available in the current Local Authority New Build programme have been allocated. The Government are committed to reviewing the unfair Housing Revenue Account, including its implications for council housebuilding.

Departmental Human Resources

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5105]

Robert Neill: Communities and Local Government was formed in 2006 and we do not have access to records about expenditure by its predecessor organisations before this date.

The following table shows the total budget expenditure by our human resources function in the financial years since 2005-06.

The administration budget shows the cost of running the HR function. The corporate budget represents expenditure managed by HR on behalf of the wider Department. Corporate non-pay includes the Department's learning and development and occupational health costs.

£

Financial year		*Administration*	*Corporate*	*Total*
2005-06	Total	1,602,602	5,566,700	7,169,303
Pay		1,626,448	1,546,323	3,172,771
Non-pay		126,582	4,020,377	4,146,958
Income		-150,427		-150,427
2006-07	Total	2,378,404	4,225,127	6,603,531
Pay		2,355,863	1,793,183	4,149,046
Non-pay		165,843	2,495,751	2,661,594
Income		-143,302	-63,807	-207,109
2007-08	Total	3,400,389	4,550,372	7,950,762
Pay		3,187,463	1,514,208	4,701,672
Non-pay		473,064	3,077,791	3,550,854
Income		-260,138	-41,627	-301,764
2008-09	Total	3,103,938	6,449,033	9,552,971
Pay		3,176,369	3,175,810	6,352,179
Non-pay		114,862	3,310,906	3,425,768
Income		-187,293	-37,683	-224,976
2009-10	Total	4,111,553	7,159,180	11,270,734
Pay		3,848,760	3,171,692	7,020,452
Non-pay		426,577	3,917,727	4,344,304
Income		-163,784	69,762	-94,023

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5724]

Robert Neill: Head office addresses for each of the Department's bodies can be found in the Communities and Local Government Annual Report 2009, which is located on our website.

Since this report was published there have been the following changes:

The addition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission, located at Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN.

The addition of National Tenant Voice, located at c/o Government Office North West, 14th Floor, City Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BE.

Departmental Offices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6567]

Robert Neill: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £780 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6822]

Grant Shapps: As a result of decisions by the previous Administration, in June 2010 the Office for Budget Responsibility forecast public sector net borrowing in 2010-11 would hit £149 billion—contributing to its forecast £1.3 trillion of public debt by 2014. To help reduce the public debt, the Department for Communities and Local Government will make savings of £780 million in 2010-11, from the following budget lines.

Programmes 2010-11	*Description*	*Savings (£000)*
Cutting waste - CLG, Quangos and lower priority programmes		90,421
Running costs - CLG	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	26,954
Running costs - Regional Development Agencies	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	17,000
Running costs - Quangos		
PINS	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	6,000
Thames Gateway - Direct	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets—UDC contingency	500
Thames Gateway - London UDC	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	600
Thames Gateway - Thurrock UDC	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	600
National Tenant Voice	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	79
Building Research Advisory Committee	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	2
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	215
Tenant Services Authority	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	2,835
Homes and Communities Agency	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	8,831
Infrastructure Planning Commission	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	735
West Northants Development Corporation	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	1,000
Community Development Foundation	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	167
Leasehold Advisory Service	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	158
FireBuy	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	137
Residential Property Tribunal Service	Efficiency Savings from 2010-11 budgets	1,187
Lower priority programmes		
Fire - New Dimensions Programme	Procurement Saving	5,000
Crosscutting Cohesion and Extremism Projects	Unallocated funding	3,100
Thames Gateway	Unallocated funding	500
Cohesion and Faith Programme (non LG element)	Unallocated funding	3,235
Prevent Programme (non ABG element)	Unallocated funding	6,586
Unallocated funding	Unallocated funding	5,000
Regional Development Agencies		186,000
Programme Costs - Regional Development Agencies	Savings in line with plans to restructure regional tier	186,000
Housing Programmes		150,000
National Affordable Housing Programme	Funding announced but not yet allocated	100,000
Kickstart	Funding announced but not yet allocated	50,000
Grants to Local Government		353,587
Area Based Grant		
Supporting People - Administration Element	Funding allocated	30,000
-Working Neighbourhood Fund	Funding allocated	45,000
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative	Funding allocated	17,500
Prevent	Funding allocated	7,000
Cohesion	Funding allocated	4,000
Non-Area Based Grant Programmes		
Housing Market Renewal	Funding allocated	50,000
- Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant	Funding announced but not yet allocated	30,000
Housing and Planning Delivery Grant	Funding announced but not yet allocated	146,000
- Connecting Communities	Funding announced but not yet allocated	19,087
Other Cohesion Funding	Funding announced but not yet allocated	5,000
Totals Savings		780,008

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, which programmes will no longer be funded as a result of the end year flexibility claim from his Department for £220 million. [6840]

Grant Shapps: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 394W, to the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne (John Healey).

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, what the breakdown by *(a)* budget area and *(b)* local authority area is of the £220 million reduction in expenditure to be made from his Department. [7033]

Grant Shapps: The Government remain strongly committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit and the announcement by the Chief Secretary on the 5 July confirmed that the Department has agreed to a £220 million reduction in its claim for End Year Flexibility this year. We have therefore been able to confirm £390 million of End Year Flexibility this year, alongside the £170 million announced on 24 May, for the provision of new social housing and other housing priorities.

This guarantee of £560 million of funding will enable the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to meet all existing contractual commitments and will be able to progress some of those programmes that have been paused while the funding position was under review. The HCA's regional offices will be assessing which other schemes can be progressed. Moreover, given public sector borrowing in 2010-11 was forecast to hit £167 billion, such levels of spending on "borrowed money" was unsustainable—contributing to the forecast £1.4 trillion of public debt by 2014.

Departmental Sponsorship

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what costs his Department incurred in connection with its sponsorship of the *(a)* Environmental Innovation in Waste Collection Achievement of the Year award and *(b)* Reducing Health Inequalities Achievement of the Year award at the Municipal Journal Awards 2010 in respect of (i) sponsorship, (ii) publicity and (iii) costs incurred in (A) travel, (B) accommodation and (C) subsistence payments for Ministers, staff and guests of his Department at the awards ceremony. [6423]

Robert Neill: The Environmental Innovation in Waste Collection Achievement of the Year award was a commitment of the previous Government and was jointly sponsored with DEFRA. The only charge to the Department was £11,744.13 including VAT which was paid to the Hemming Group Ltd. The Department incurred no travel, accommodation or subsistence for Ministers, staff or guests. The judging of the awards and the criteria used do not reflect the priorities of the new Government.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many temporary staff are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [5501]

Robert Neill: Communities and Local Government has recently contributed to a cross-Government work force management information collection exercise, details of which can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100618-non-payroll.aspx

This provides a comprehensive summary of staffing data, including contingent work force information, for the Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

East of England Development Agency: Internet

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the East of England Development Agency spent on the www.erebusonline.org.uk website in each year since its establishment; and what estimate he has made of the number of unique visitors received by this website in each such year. [7167]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 236W.

Empty Property: Greater London

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many long-term empty dwellings there are in the *(a)* Richmond-upon-Thames and *(b)* Kingston local authority area. [6926]

Robert Neill: As at 5 October 2009, the number of long-term empty domestic dwellings in Richmond upon Thames was 452 and 1,228 in Kingston.

These data are taken from the council tax base (CTB) form completed annually in the autumn by all billing authorities in England and returned to Communities and Local Government.

Housing

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average annual projected change in the number of households in England between 2006 and 2031 on the basis of *(a)* the principal population and *(b)* a zero net migration projection. [7772]

Andrew Stunell: 2006-based household projections under the principal population projection and the zero net migration population variant are published on the CLG website in Live Table 416 at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/householdestimates/livetables-households/

The ONS has subsequently produced 2008-based population projections, which include lower projected levels of net international migration. CLG expects to publish 2008-based household projections by the end of this year.

Housing: Asbestos

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of homes in *(a)* Penistone and Stockbridge constituency and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber which contain asbestos. [6397]

Andrew Stunell: The information is not available from my Department. The presence of asbestos in the home is one of 29 potential hazards assessed through the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS). Local authorities are required to provide information each year through their Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix on their assessment of the number of homes with any category 1 rated hazards present in each tenure. However this reporting requirement is not specific to individual hazards. The English Housing Survey also provides national estimates of the presence of 26 of the 29 hazards, but as a non-intrusive survey rather than detailed HHSRS inspection, this does not cover the presence of asbestos.

Housing: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in Bristol East constituency. [7494]

Andrew Stunell: The number of surplus properties in the social sector is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Housing: Construction

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were built in the west midlands in each year from 1980 to 1999. [7040]

Andrew Stunell: The following table shows the number of new homes built in the west midlands in each year from 1980-81 to 1999-2000.

House building completions in the west midlands

Financial year	*Completions*
1980-81	22,220
1981-82	15,910
1982-83	15,420
1983-84	17,800
1984-85	18,950
1985-86	16,130
1986-87	17,400
1987-88	18,660
1988-89	17,820
1989-90	15,050
1990-91	16,700
1991-92	15,610
1992-93	16,260
1993-94	14,800
1994-95	17,220
1995-96	14,790
1996-97	14,280
1997-98	13,390
1998-99	14,250
1999-2000	15,380

Source:
New build completions from P2 monthly and quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he expects the results of the regional review of funding for round two Kickstart projects to be published; [7819]

(2) what factors he plans to take into account in determining the outcome of the regional review of funding for round two Kickstart projects; [7820]

(3) whether he has made provision for public consultation under the regional review of funding for round two Kickstart projects. [7821]

Grant Shapps: The regional review of funding will build on the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) original assessment with the aim to maximise affordable housing and achieve best value for money, alongside local priorities and within the funding available. No public consultation will be undertaken during the regional review of funding for these projects. All individual schemes would have been through community consultation during the planning process. When originally approving these projects, HCA staff worked with the relevant local authorities to ensure that the schemes complemented local priorities. The objective is to give interested parties clarity as quickly as possible.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* Kickstart and *(b)* local authority new build projects which were placed on hold by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in their statement of 25 May 2010 have now reached legal completion and will be funded following the HCA's statement of 6 July 2010. [7849]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency's regional teams are currently undertaking evaluation of all projects funding that had been put on hold under Kickstart round two and local authority new build. Determination will be based on available resources with the aim to maximise affordable housing and achieve best value for money alongside local priorities, with completion of reviews as soon as possible.

Housing: Regeneration

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how he plans to allocate the reduction to the 2010-11 Housing Market Renewal budget among the 11 pathfinder projects. [7947]

Grant Shapps: A letter to HMR Pathfinder Chairs, dated 10 June 2010, set out the Government's proposed approach to the allocation of the 2010-11 HMR budget. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Publicity

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to prevent local authorities from publishing their own newspapers. [7690]

Robert Neill: We intend to implement the commitment in "The Coalition: our programme for government" to impose tougher rules to stop unfair competition by local authority newspapers by revising the statutory Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. Before making such revisions, statute requires us to consult representatives of local government and any local authority with whom consultation appears desirable, which we intend to do as soon as practicable.

Mayors

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future *(a)* number and *(b)* powers of elected mayors. [7113]

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce the date on which each planned city referendum on elected mayors is to take place. [7245]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Nottingham East (Chris Leslie) on 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 174W.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people who have received support from the Mortgage Help website and telephone advice line in the last *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [7943]

Grant Shapps: From the launch of the website on 7 September 2009 to 8 July 2010 there were 164,657 absolute unique visitors to:

http://mortgagehelp.direct.gov.uk

In the last six months, there were 89,435 visitors and in the last three months, 12,315 visitors.

Households are also able to access advice from a range of telephone advice line services promoted on the MortgageHelp website, including National Debtline, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service and Shelter.

National Policy Statements

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what national policy statements are under development by his Department. [6925]

Robert Neill: My Department holds policy responsibility for planning and is therefore co-ordinating the Government's work on National Policy Statements but the sectors covered by national policy statements fall in other departmental areas of responsibility. The Department for Transport, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are responsible for developing national policy statements for their major infrastructure sectors.

Non-domestic Rates

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the merits of reviewing the thresholds for small business rate relief. [6995]

Robert Neill: The small business rate relief thresholds are set to target genuinely small businesses while ensuring that the costs are kept to a reasonable level for those businesses which pay for the scheme. The thresholds were uprated from 1 April 2010 in line with the general movement of rateable values at revaluation. In addition, we are doubling the level of small business rate relief in England for one year, from 1 October 2010.

Ordnance Survey

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce his decision on the Ordnance Survey's public task. [6402]

Robert Neill: The Government are continuing to think carefully about the Ordnance Survey's public task and will inform the House when a decision is made.

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account he plans to take of the recommendations of the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information on the regulation of Ordnance Survey in its response to the consultation on the future of Ordnance Survey. [6403]

Robert Neill: The response to the consultation on "Policy options for geographic information from Ordnance Survey" received from the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information has been carefully analysed and continues to be considered. Officials from CLG have met with the chair of the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information a number of times to discuss the issues covered by the consultation.

Private Rented Housing

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has for the development of *(a)* local lettings agencies and *(b)* the implementation of the recommendations of the Rugg review of private rented sector housing. [7748]

Andrew Stunell: On 10 June, my right hon. Friend the Minister with responsibility for housing and local government announced that the coalition Government did not intend to implement the regulatory proposals which emerged from the Rugg review. We continue to work on other issues highlighted by the review, including how local authorities can best engage with the private rented sector.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 894W, on private rented housing, what further meetings of his Department's task and finish groups have been held since 12 May 2010. [7932]

Andrew Stunell: The task and finish groups were established as part of the consultation exercise on the previous Administration's response to the Rugg review. No meetings of the task and finish groups have, therefore, been held since 12 May 2010.

Social Rented Housing: Argyll and Bute

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [6636]

Andrew Stunell: The number of surplus properties in the social sector is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England and Scotland report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Social Rented Housing: Birmingham

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in Birmingham, Erdington constituency. [6947]

Andrew Stunell: The number of surplus properties in the social sector is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Social Rented Housing: Lambeth

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 136W, on social rented housing: Lambeth, what eligibility criteria will apply to proposals for Decent Homes programme funding for arms-length management organisations once the outcome of the review is known. [6718]

Andrew Stunell: The criteria for the allocation of funding for ALMOs, including Lambeth, in future years will be dependent on the overall funding available to the Decent Homes programme, following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

Social Rented Housing: Lewisham

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of surplus one and two bedroom properties in the social sector in Lewisham constituency. [6597]

Andrew Stunell: The number of surplus properties in the social sector is not collected centrally.

Local authorities and registered social landlords in England report information on the number of vacant dwellings owned. However, the Government do not consider vacant dwelling information an appropriate proxy measure of surplus housing. Also, this information is not reported for constituencies and is not reported by number of bedrooms.

Social Rented Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated by the Homes and Communities Agency to social housing providers for each project in Peterborough in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [7249]

Grant Shapps: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer on funding that I gave to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 84-85W.

The Homes and Communities Agency has spent over £1 million in grant on new affordable housing schemes between April and the end of June 2010-11 in Peterborough. This funding can relate to starts on site or completions which may be from schemes starting on site in previous years.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will review the level of assistance provided by his Department to Bangladesh for education in the light of that country's levels of defence expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [7028]

Mr Duncan: The Government of Bangladesh's defence spending is relatively low, budgeted at 1.2% of gross domestic product for 2010-11 compared to the 2.4% of GDP allocated to its education budget for the same period.

The UK supports Bangladesh to reduce poverty and provide basic services, including health and education, because overall, Bangladesh's resources are very low relative to the investment needed. The UK's investment helped improve teaching training for 400,000 primary teachers in 2009 alone, improving the quality of education for millions of Bangladeshi children. This funding is supplementing Government investment, not substituting for it.

The Secretary of State for International Development has commissioned a review of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Future support to Bangladesh, including education, will be determined as part of this review.

China

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of his Department's work in China. [6624]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development announced on 3 June that the bilateral development programme to China would end as soon as is practical. We want to work with China as partners, not as donors and recipients. My right hon. Friend will inform the House when any further decision is made regarding the closure of the programme.

Departmental Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many governance advisers are employed by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* in developing countries; and how many of these have (i) a degree in political science, politics or public policy and (ii) experience as an elected politician in national or local government. [6276]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently employs 96 governance advisers, 65 of whom work in developing countries. 44% of the total number of governance advisers work in fragile and conflict-affected states.

All governance advisers are expected to have a post-graduate degree in the relevant subject area such as political science, economics or public administration or comparable post-graduate or professional qualifications and must demonstrate extensive proven experience of working effectively on governance issues in practice. Experience as an elected politician in national or local government is not required for governance advisers.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many economics advisers are employed by his Department *(a)* in total and *(b)* in developing countries; and how many of them have a degree in economics. [6277]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There are currently *(a)* 110 economic advisers working in the Department for International Development (DFID), and *(b)* 52 of these are working in developing countries. All DFID economic advisers have a degree in economics.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5551]

Mr Duncan: Neither the Department for International Development (DFID) nor the Government Cars Service (GCS) hold a central record of ministerial travel between DFID and the House of Commons. This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code

DFID has given notice to GCS that we are terminating our contracts for allocated ministerial cars and drivers for the Under-Secretary of State and myself and intend to use the new Government car pool for ministerial travel purposes as soon as this is in place.

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6556]

Mr Duncan: No.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6428]

Mr Duncan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 52W. The National School of Government is funded through its Core Learning Programme to deliver induction and other training to Ministers, and there is no separate charge to Departments.

Along with Ministers from other Government Departments, the Under-Secretary of State and I attended the 'Induction Workshop for New Ministers' run by the National School of Government.

Developing Countries: Infant Mortality

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the number of children who died up to the age of seven in least developed countries in the latest period for which figures are available, whose deaths would not have occurred if medical facilities available in the UK had been available; and if he will make a statement. [7030]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) relies on the United Nations for data on international health. Under-five mortality data are collected rather than under-seven, as these data are required to measure progress on the child health Millennium Development Goal (MDG).

According to the United Nations Children Fund's State of the World's Children Report 2010, the under-five mortality rate in the UK is six deaths per thousand which equates to approximately 4,000 deaths. The comparable under-five mortality rate for the least developed countries is 129 deaths per thousand which equates to just over 3.5 million deaths.

Guinea: Overseas Aid

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will hold discussions with the new government in Guinea on provision of aid to that country. [7907]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no bilateral programme in Guinea and has no current plans to hold discussions with the Guinean Government on provision of aid. DFID does provide multilateral contributions to Guinea, primarily through the United Nations and World Bank. In 2008-09, total UK multilateral contributions to Guinea were around £1.7 million.

The UK Government have instigated a full review of all DFID multilateral and bilateral spending.

International Assistance: Health Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to seek to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 4 and 5 prior to the MDG Summit in September. [7554]

Mr O'Brien: At the Muskoka summit the UK secured commitment by the G8 countries and others to save an extra 1.4 million lives of mothers and children, backed up by commitments of $7.3 billion of additional finance over the next five years.

The next step is to catalyse the wider international community in decisive action. In September at the MDG summit, the UN Secretary-General will launch a Joint Action Plan for Women and Children's Health. The UK Government will press world leaders to attend the summit and make new commitments to this plan to further reduce deaths of mothers, babies and children.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will extend his Department's maternal health strategy to include children for the purposes of achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. [7555]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development is developing a new Business Plan on Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health. It seeks to increase women's ability to choose when and how often they have a child and increase the survival of women and babies during pregnancy and childbirth. This is intended to have a significant positive impact on families, economies and societies as well the health and empowerment of women themselves.

Nearly 40% of deaths of children under five occur in the first month of life. Preventing unintended pregnancies and ensuring pregnancy and child birth is safe for all women make a vital contribution to child health.

There is absolutely no intention to move away from our support to child health. This was demonstrated by the Prime Minister's recent commitments made at the G8 for women and children's health. There are numerous ways in which DFID demonstrates its commitment to child health. For example, we are increasing the number of children under five who are immunised against childhood diseases, backed by £150 million over 10 years to the GAVI Alliance. We work to tackle under-nutrition which contributes to one third of child deaths as well as one fifth of maternal deaths. We are increasing our support for the prevention and treatment of malaria. Some 90% of deaths from malaria are in children and malaria is the cause of one in five child deaths in Africa.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help reduce Gaza's dependence on food aid; and if he will make a statement. [6955]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK welcomes Israel's decision on 5 July to allow all goods into Gaza, except those on a prohibited list.

Enabling a greater range and volume of foodstuffs to enter Gaza, including raw materials for agriculture and food industries, should lessen Gaza's dependence on food aid by spurring local production and making food more affordable.

For this to happen, we are pushing all parties, including the Palestinian Authority, UN agencies, and international NGOs, to ensure that there is sufficient coordination and prioritisation of humanitarian and commercial goods entering Gaza, to best meet the needs of the population. We will also press the Government of Israel to ensure they deliver on their commitments.

Departmental Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6429]

Mr Duncan: Zero.

UN Millennium Development Goals: Meetings

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in advance of the Millennium Development Goals Review Summit in September 2010. [6735]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development has discussed progress on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in advance of the Millennium Development Goals Summit in September 2010 with a range of ministerial colleagues including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and Chancellor. The Secretary of State, Minister of State and I also hold regular meetings. The UK is fully committed to securing an ambitious action orientated outcome from the MDG Summit.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he met opposition leader Abdullah on his recent visit to Afghanistan. [7874]

Mr Hague: I did not have the opportunity to meet Dr Abdullah Abdullah during my visit to Kabul on 22-23 May 2010, but I look forward to meeting him on a future occasion.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* seek to reduce levels of anti-Semitism overseas; and if he will make a statement. [5517]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Combating all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, remains an important part of the Government's human rights agenda. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their race, faith or belief. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights in their host countries and routinely raise our concerns with host governments. Where possible our embassies take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws. The Government also support the All Party Parliamentary Group against anti-Semitism and their work on tackling anti-Semitism across Europe and encourage MEPs to get involved in tackling anti-Semitism in their own countries. We will continue to promote these issues within the EU, the UN, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other multilateral fora.

Anti-Semitism: International Cooperation

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made in implementing the provisions of the final declaration of the London Conference on Combating anti-Semitism, with particular reference to *(a)* establishing an international taskforce of internet specialists to measure anti-Semitism online and propose international responses and *(b)* exposing and isolating (i) governments and (ii) politicians engaging in anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [5434]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The implementation of the provisions of the London Conference on Combating anti-Semitism falls within the remit of the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism which is made up of officials from across Whitehall and the chief executives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust. The working group is currently ensuring that the provisions within the declaration are taken forward and they plan to report back on progress at the second Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism (ICCA) Conference in Ottawa in November 2010.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on implementation of the provisions of the final declaration of the London Conference on Combating anti-Semitism; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [5435]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We welcome the London Declaration on Combating anti-Semitism that was adopted in February 2009 and its important recommendations. We are committed to combating all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism. The implementation of the provisions of the London Conference on Combating anti-Semitism falls within the remit of the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism which is made up of officials from across Whitehall and the chief executives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust. We look forward to the second Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism (ICCA) Conference in Ottawa in November 2010 as an opportunity for all participants to assess the progress that has been made.

British Nationality: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens were serving prison sentences in *(a)* each other EU member state and *(b)* each non-EU state in each year since 1997. [7526]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The following table shows a snapshot of British nationals in detention by country taken in March of each year from 2005. Figures were not collated centrally prior to 2005.

March 2010

	Number of British national prisoners
Afghanistan	6
Albania	3
Algeria	1
Antigua	5
Argentina	12
Australia	287
Austria	4
Azerbaijan	1
Bahrain	2
Barbados	13
Belgium	12
Bolivia	2
Brazil	37
Bulgaria	1
Cambodia	8
Canada	34
Chile	1
China	26
Colombia	4
Congo (Democratic Republic)	1
Costa Rica	3
Croatia	1
Cyprus	11
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	3
Dominica	1
Dominican Republic	14
Ecuador	10
Egypt	24
Estonia	2
Ethiopia	6
Fiji	1
Finland	1
France	133
Gambia	2

	March 2010
	Number of British national prisoners
Germany	124
Ghana	5
Greece	16
Grenada	6
Guatemala	2
Guyana	8
Hungary	1
India	14
Indonesia	11
Iran	2
Iraq	2
Ireland	101
Israel	1
Italy	35
Jamaica	65
Japan	29
Kenya	2
Korea (South)	1
Kuwait	11
Laos	1
Latvia	1
Lebanon	1
Luxembourg	3
Malaysia	2
Malta	9
Mexico	1
Mongolia	1
Montenegro	1
Morocco	11
Namibia	1
Nepal	1
Netherlands	33
New Zealand	7
Norway	34
Oman	5
Pakistan	27
Panama	10
Papua New Guinea	1
Peru	34
Philippines	19
Poland	3
Portugal	25
Qatar	4
Romania	4
Saudi Arabia	3
Senegal	3
Serbia	3
Sierra Leone	1
Singapore	4
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	2
South Africa	15
Spain	346
Sri Lanka	4
St Lucia	4
St Kitts	1
Sweden	24
Switzerland	9
Syria	6
Taiwan	18
Tanzania	1
Thailand	90
Trinidad and Tobago	14
Tunisia	3
Turkey	24
United Arab emirates	55
USA	652
Uzbekistan	1
Venezuela	14
Vietnam	2
Yemen	1
Total	2,649

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens serving prison sentences in *(a)* each other EU member state and *(b)* non-EU states for convictions which may be unsafe; and if he will make a statement. [7527]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We do not centrally collate statistics in cases where there are allegations of fair trial concerns.

If appropriate, we will consider approaching the local authorities if a prisoner is not treated in line with internationally accepted standards. This may include cases where a trial does not follow internationally recognised standards for a fair trial.

Central Asia

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Minister next plans to make a visit to Central Asia. [6622]

Mr Lidington: I will visit Kazakhstan on 16-17 July for the informal meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. While there I expect to have a bilateral discussions with ministerial colleagues from the region and beyond.

College of Europe: Scholarships

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many scholarships to the College of Europe his Department funds. [6635]

Mr Lidington: None. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will be providing financial support for up to 11 eligible students to study at the College of Europe in 2010-11.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the safety of trade unionists in Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [5022]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The safety of trade unionists in Colombia remains of great concern to us. Our embassy in Colombia continues to visit those who are under threat and we make representation to the Colombian authorities in cases of violence or intimidation against trade unionists. We are also working with the UN on a research initiative to help improve trade union human rights protection and the development of positive labour relations.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal background note relating to each parliamentary question for *(a)* ordinary written answer and *(b)* written answer on a named day tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West and answered by his Department since June 2009. [7262]

Mr Lidington: In line with the practice of successive Governments, it is not normal practice to routinely publish internal advice to Ministers.

Embassies: Buildings

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-24W, on departmental public expenditure, which assets from his Department's overseas estates he intends to sell; and what estimate he has made of the likely contribution to the public purse of such a sale. [2108]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is planning to sell at least £25 million of assets in Financial Year 2010-11. We have identified 61 properties potentially surplus to requirements. The timing of any sales will suit operational requirements and in some cases will be dependent on a replacement property being secured either on lease terms or as purchases where this represents an overall capital gain and represents value for money.

Of those 61, the following properties are currently either under offer or have been sold and are expected to generate £11.4 million in capital receipts. A schedule of properties sold or under offer is as follows

Schedule of properties sold or under offer

	Property
Dar es Salaam	House + four flats
Ibadan	Amenity property
Nairobi	House
Colombo	Office compound
Kuala Lumpur	House
Seoul	Three houses
The Hague	Two houses
Brussels	House
Oporto	Office
Berlin	House
Dublin	House
Palma	Office
Portimao	Office
Copenhagen	House

EU Law: Fines

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what total sum in financial corrections has been levied against the UK over the past 10 years for failing to implement European Community legislation; what sum is currently outstanding; and what sum was subsequently written off. [6243]

Mr Lidington: Article 260 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union allows the European Court of Justice to fine member states for failing to implement European Community legislation.

No fines have ever been levied against the UK by way of Article 260 proceedings.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which cases since 2001 the Council of Ministers meetings have decided to amend financial corrections levied by the Commission against member states. [6302]

Mr Lidington: The position in relation to infraction fines imposed under article 260 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU) depends on the nature of the infraction.

Where the infraction is for non-notification of transposition of a directive, then the Commission may specify in its application to the Court, a level of fine to be paid by a member state, but the final decision rests with the Court and the Court may not impose a fine which exceeds the amount specified by the Commission.

In relation to other infractions, when it applies to Court the Commission must specify a level of fine to be paid by a member state, but the final decision rests with the Court.

The Council of Ministers is not involved in this process.

European External Action Service

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to bring forward proposals for the accountability of the European External Action Service to Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [5419]

Mr Lidington: As a service, the European External Action Service (EEAS) will be accountable to both the European Parliament and the Member States in the Council in their roles as budgetary authority. In so far as it acts in the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) areas, the EEAS will be accountable, through the High Representative, to the Council. In so far as it acts in areas of EU policy, it will be accountable to the Commission (as a collegiate body), the European Parliament and the Council, in accordance with their respective competences and roles.

Parliament is able to scrutinise decisions taken in Council, some of which will mandate the High Representative, and hold the Government to account through, for example, ministerial evidence sessions and debates on the Floor of the House.

Ghana: Official Visits

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will extend an invitation to the President of Ghana to visit the United Kingdom. [7408]

Mr Bellingham: We are keen to look into all ways to further develop our bilateral relationship with Ghana and other partners in Africa. Visits are an integral part of that.

The President of Ghana's successful Guest of Government visit to the UK in 2009 strengthened our excellent bilateral relationship. This Government have quickly reinforced that success with the Vice-President of Ghana's visit to the UK from 6 to 8 July 2010. We will look at the possibility of a further visit at a future date.

Indonesia: Human Rights

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will support the request to the UN by the Republic of Vanuatu for the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the legality of the agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands affecting the civil rights of the people of West Papua. [7920]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia. We do not support calls to ask the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion on whether the New York Agreement was contrary to the UN Charter or the UN General Assembly Resolution 1514. The UN General Assembly took note of the New York Agreement between Indonesia and the Netherlands in Resolution 1752. This has been the policy of successive Governments and remains unchanged by the Government.

We will continue to monitor the situation, raise human rights concerns at both official and ministerial level, encourage the Indonesian authorities to address these concerns, and advocate meaningful devolution, appropriate security measures and greater transparency in Papua.

Israel: Passports

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Israel about the misuse of British passports. [7406]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We cannot accept the fraudulent misuse of British passports. The Serious Organised Crime Agency report into the misuse of British passports pointed to Israeli involvement. In March my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) welcomed the previous Government's request for formal assurance that in the future the state of Israel would never be party to the misuse of British passports. We continue to seek these assurances from the Government of Israel.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of Qassam rockets being fired from Gaza into southern Israel; whether he has had discussions with the Government of Israel on that matter since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [7070]

Alistair Burt: The UK is aware of sporadic rocket fire from Gaza into southern Israel and we have urged all militants to refrain from such attacks. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined this in his statement of 2 June 2010.

We are in regular dialogue with the Israeli Government particularly on matters pertaining to the peace process and we continue to urge all parties not to change any facts on the ground which might undermine the peace process. Both the Foreign Secretary and I reiterated this to the House on 6 July 2010.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent reports of the vandalism of a UN summer camp for children in the Gaza Strip; and if he will make a statement. [7071]

Alistair Burt: According to the UN on 28 June, a group of masked gunmen entered a UN summer games camp. This is the second such attack against a UN summer camp in a month.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon condemned the incident and called on the local authorities in Gaza to combat any incitement against UN operations and ensure the safety of UN personnel and programmes, which serve the most vulnerable in Gaza.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar bombs launched into Israeli territory from (i) Lebanon and (ii) Gaza since 1 January 2010; what reports he has received of the number of persons (A) killed, (B) seriously injured and (C) slightly injured; and if he will make a statement. [7288]

Alistair Burt: Since 4 January 2010 we have received reports of 263 rockets launched into Israeli territory, with one fatality in March. We condemn unequivocally the indiscriminate rocket attacks launched from Gaza.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations in respect of the reported Qassam rockets fired from Gaza into southern Israel during June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [7289]

Alistair Burt: We are extremely concerned by sporadic rocket attacks against southern Israel. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his statement to the House on 2 June 2010, it is important for Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles.

A number of issues related to the middle east are discussed on a monthly basis at the UN. The UK will continue to push for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 which aims to prevent the illicit trafficking of arms into Gaza. We will continue giving our full support to the UN Sanctions Committee in pursuing and investigating sanctions violations.

Nepal: Religious Freedom

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Government of Nepal on religious freedoms in that country under its new constitution; and if he will make a statement. [7558]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have concerns about the impact of some of the draft proposals for inclusion in the new Nepalese constitution. It is important that the new constitution protects religious freedoms in a manner consistent with Nepal's international commitments. We already have a dialogue with the Government of Nepal and political parties where we stress the importance of ensuring that the new constitution is fully in line with the obligations of international human rights treaties, including on religious freedoms. We have also raised the matter with the chair of the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles Committee, responsible for drafting the relevant constitutional provisions on religious freedom, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with the National Human Rights Commission, among others. We will continue this dialogue.

Nigeria: Foreign Relations

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the President of Nigeria since the President's swearing-in. [7024]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not yet had any discussions with His Excellency President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria. However, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to the President on 28 May 2010 and they also met at the G8/G20 meeting in Toronto on 26 June 2010. Our bilateral relationship with Nigeria is important and we enjoy a close dialogue across a range of priorities.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government has provided to British citizens who were aboard the Gaza Freedom Flotilla since they returned to the UK. [6713]

Alistair Burt: I invited those British nationals involved to meet me on 17 June 2010. 16 of them attended and I was able to listen to their experiences and set out what we were able to do. Consular officials have also spoken to many of those involved.

I have set out in PQ numbers 6785, 6787 and 6716 what we have done to assist the individuals in clarifying the whereabouts of, and retrieving, their possessions and the missing passports. The UK has spent significant time and resources assisting British nationals in this case, including exceptional assistance beyond our normal policy, in view of the specific circumstances.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the Israeli Government's willingness to grant consular access to British citizens detained on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla. [6715]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the House on 2 June 2010 that he was disappointed and dissatisfied with the Israeli response to the consular situation. He criticised their preparedness and the chaotic nature of the Israeli organisation. The Heads of EU missions in Israel have written jointly to the Israelis expressing their unhappiness at the consular provisions for a planned operation.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Israeli Government that evidence be taken in public from British citizens who were aboard the Gaza Freedom Flotilla in any inquiry into the matter. [6716]

Alistair Burt: The Israeli authorities have yet to set out the exact details on how the inquiry will be conducted. Broadly, the Commission's mandate states that it may request any individual or entity, whether Israeli (other than military personnel) or foreign, to testify before it or to provide information to it by other means, on matters which the Commission believes to be relevant to its proceedings.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined in his statement on 21 June 2010 it is important that the Commission provide a full, credible, impartial and independent investigation that the international community can respect.

When I met with the returnees on 17 June I made it clear that we believe the inquiry should have access to the testimony of the British nationals involved. I have raised this issue with the Israeli ambassador.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps were taken by the UK Embassy in Israel to contact the next of kin of British nationals detained on board the Gaza Freedom Flotilla. [6785]

Alistair Burt: We had contact with a large number of family and friends before we were able to gain consular access to the British nationals who were detained, and provided them with as much information as we were able to on what was happening to reassure them. The Data Protection Act limits what we can discuss about an individual until we have received their consent.

UK consular staff visited the detained British nationals in Be'er Sheva Prison and saw most of them. From those they met they took contact details of the next of kin they wanted us to contact. Consular staff in London and on the ground telephoned those for whom we were given details. Consular staff offered phone facilities for the British nationals to call their next of kin when they arrived in Istanbul after being deported from Israel.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has estimated the value of possessions confiscated from British citizens on board the Gaza Freedom Flotilla by the Israeli authorities which have not yet been returned. [6786]

Alistair Burt: We have made no such estimate. We have set out clearly what we have done and will be doing to assist those whose possessions are still missing, and made clear to the returnees what next steps they might consider.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in his Department's work with its international counterparts to secure progress towards peace, security and a higher quality of life for both Palestinians and Israelis. [6952]

Alistair Burt: We support a two-state solution created by negotiation and confidence-building on both sides, rather than the creation of facts on the ground that are intended ultimately to change the shape of such a solution.

We welcome the commitment shown by both the Israelis and the Palestinians towards proximity talks. We seek to buttress the diplomatic initiative of President Obama's Administration and the proximity talks currently underway and will be strong supporters of those building the institutions of a future Palestinian state, while actively exploring with our European partners the scope for further EU action in this area, building on the foundation of December's Foreign Affairs Council conclusions.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage Israel to allow Palestinians to travel to hospitals outside Palestinian-controlled territory. [6953]

Alistair Burt: The UK is in regular contact with the Israeli and Palestinian Governments and our international allies regarding the current humanitarian situation in Gaza and the wider issues relating to the peace process. Together with the EU and the Quartet we have called on Israel to ease restrictions on movement and access in the territories. It is essential that there be unfettered access to the Palestinian territories to meet the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people. This includes facilitating access to medical care outside of the Palestinian territories.

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in efforts to lift the Gaza blockade to allow the import of construction materials. [6954]

Alistair Burt: We welcome Israel's decision to move from a list of 120 permitted goods to a list of specific prohibited items. This step shows that it is possible to lift the pressure on ordinary Gazans without compromising the security of ordinary Israelis. All parties must now work together urgently to deliver real change on the ground. This will mean building capacity at the crossings, getting vital reconstruction projects up and running and ensuring that Gazans can export as well as import goods.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined the importance in his statement of 5 July 2010 and I also reiterated this in the House on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 159.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Israel on the blockade on Gaza since the agreement to substitute the list of allowed items for the list of banned items. [7058]

Alistair Burt: We are in regular contact and dialogue with the Israeli Government, on a number of matters related to the Middle East Peace Process—this includes the current humanitarian situation in Gaza.

We have made clear that the situation in Gaza is a tragedy and unsustainable. Together with the EU and Quartet, we have called on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality. I therefore welcomed Israel's decision to move from a list of 120 permitted goods to a list of specific prohibited items. As I said to the House on 6 July 2010, the pressure that has been exerted on Israel in recent times by the EU, the UK, the US and the Quartet for a relaxation on the restrictions in Gaza has had an effect.

It is now imperative that all parties work together urgently to deliver real change on the ground.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the security of British citizens detained following the raid on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla of the confiscation of their passports by the Israeli authorities. [7081]

Alistair Burt: All passports which were confiscated by the Israeli authorities were cancelled as soon as the British nationals in question were issued with temporary travel documents. I can further confirm that we have now received all three missing passports and they are being returned to their owners.

Russia: Extradition

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made any recent representations to the Russian authorities on the extradition of Andrei Lugovoi. [6483]

Mr Lidington: We are committed to seeking justice in the Litvinenko case. This was a crime which took place in the UK and involved a British citizen. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister raised the death of Alexander Litvinenko at his meeting with President Medvedev on 25 June.

United Nations: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a UN body to adjudicate on climate change disputes. [6634]

Mr Bellingham: The UK is committed to working for an ambitious climate change deal through the UN that will give confidence that global action is sufficient to keep temperature rise within two degrees centigrade. There are a number of proposals, such as the establishment of a new World Trade Organisation style organisation, for helping to ensure the enforcement of such a deal. Like others we are currently giving them due consideration within the UN negotiation and have not yet come to a settled view on which would be most effective. In coming to a conclusion with partners in the negotiation, it will be necessary to balance the need for a meaningful compliance mechanism with the importance of the deal being negotiable and acceptable so as to include all the major emitters.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much in child maintenance arrears is owed in each constituency. [4756]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write tc the hon. Member with the information requested and arrange for a copy of the table to be placed in the Library. I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will publish a table showing the amount of child maintenance arrears owed in each constituency. [4756]

The table, which has been placed in the Library, shows the amount of child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents as of March 2010, for cases administered on the Agency's computer systems, based on the parliamentary constituency of the non-resident parent.

It is not possible to allocate arrears on cases managed off the Agency's Computer System among constituencies so the figures will not sum to the total reported in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics published in March 2010.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Disability Living Allowance: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of disability living allowance in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [6843]

Maria Miller: Recipients of disability living allowance in the parliamentary constituency of Dartford.

As at November each year	*Total*
2009	3,960
2008	3,720
2007	3,530
2006	3,340
2005	3,200

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Parliamentary constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament for May 2005.
3. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended for example if they are in hospital.
4. This information is published on our website at http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Future Jobs Fund: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding has been allocated from the Future Jobs Fund to each London borough in the last 12 months. [6658]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available at borough level. However, in the London region, we have allocated £46.3 million.

Future Jobs Fund: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs in the *(a)* public, *(b)* private and *(c)* third sector have been created by the Future Jobs Fund in Tower Hamlets in the last 12 months. [6657]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available at borough level. The most recent official statistics, covering the period October 2009 to January 2010, show that there were 840 recorded future jobs fund starts in London.

Homelessness

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on specialist support for homeless people to return them to work in the last five years; and how much is planned to be spent in 2010-11. [5127]

Chris Grayling: The information available is as follows. It should also be noted that homeless people are also helped by mainstream employment provision such as Flexible New Deal:

(1) *The London Homeless Partnership*[1]

		£
Expenditure	2007-08	426,000
	2008-09	433,000
	2009-10	434,000
Planned	2010-11	438,000

(2) *The St Mungo's Single Homelessness Enterprise Invest to Save Project*[2]

		£
Expenditure	2007-08	84,000
	2008-09	187,000
	2009-10	201,000
Planned	2010-11	97,000

(3) *progress2work-LinkUp*

This programme helps people who are homeless, and also people for whom drug or alcohol misuse, or an offending background is a barrier to work. Figures on how much of the funding for this programme is spent on homeless customers are not available.

---

[1] The amounts shown are staff costs only. Other costs could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information prior to 2007-08 is not available.

[2] This is a three-year project that ends in September 2010.

Housing Benefit

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of private sector tenants whose local housing allowance will be reduced and *(b)* average per week reduction in the level of local housing allowance paid to each for each broad rental market area in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [4814]

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in West Lancashire constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average amount of reduction for such a tenant in each of those years. [5589]

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in Stretford and Urmston constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average reduction in each of those years. [5862]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in Makerfield constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is for the average reduction in each of those years. [6052]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average reduction in each of those years. [6058]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in Worsley and Eccles South constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average reduction in each of those years. [6093]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average weekly reduction in each of those years. [6150]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average reduction in each of those years. [6188]

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in Lewisham East constituency whose housing benefit allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average amount of reduction for such a tenant in each of those years. [6592]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average reduction in each of those years. [6649]

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average reduction among such tenants in each of those years. [6784]

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of private sector tenants in Birmingham, Erdington constituency whose local housing allowance will be reduced from its current level in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what his estimate is of the average amount of reduction for such a tenant in each of those years. [6944]

Steve Webb: We will publish an impact assessment for the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates on 23 July 2010.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age who are (i) employed and (ii) unemployed, *(c)* social sector tenants and *(d)* private sector tenants who are in receipt of housing benefit in (A) Bishop Auckland and (B) Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [5181]

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit in West Lancashire constituency. [5630]

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age who are unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit in Stretford and Urmston constituency. [5854]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* persons of working age in work, *(c)* persons of working age who are unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants on housing benefit in (i) Slough, (ii) Salisbury and (iii) Scarborough and Whitby constituency. [6005]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* persons of working age in work, *(c)* persons of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [6016]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age who are unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit in Worsley and Eccles South constituency. [6090]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age who are unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants receiving housing benefit in (i) Glasgow North and (ii) Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [6146]

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* persons of working age in work, *(c)* persons of working age who are unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Lewisham East constituency. [6586]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* persons of working age in work, *(c)* persons of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in (i) Ashfield, (ii) Argyll and Bute and (iii) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [6651]

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* persons of working age in work, *(c)* persons of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Cynon Valley constituency. [6780]

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* persons of working age in work, *(c)* persons of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Birmingham Erdington constituency. [6939]

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age who are (i) in work and (ii) unemployed, *(c)* social sector tenants and *(d)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Clwyd South constituency. [7003]

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* persons of working age in work, *(c)* persons of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency. [7034]

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age who are (i) employed and (ii) unemployed, *(c)* social sector tenants and *(d)* private sector tenants in East Lothian constituency. [7180]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age who are (i) employed and (ii) unemployed, *(c)* social sector tenants and *(d)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Bristol East constituency. [7242]

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* people of working age in work, *(c)* people of working age and unemployed, *(d)* social sector tenants and *(e)* private sector tenants in receipt of housing benefit in Bristol North West constituency. [7790]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

The available information on housing benefit recipients is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jun10.xls

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in receipt of housing benefit were paying rent at or below the 30th percentile in their local area at the latest date for which information is available. [6320]

Steve Webb: We are currently updating our estimate of how many people in receipt of housing benefit were paying rent at or below the 30th percentile in their local area, so as to use the latest housing benefit and market evidence data. Following quality assurance, this updated estimate will be included in the impact assessment of the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates. The Department will publish this on 23 July 2010.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Lewisham East constituency. [6589]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [6647]

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Cynon Valley constituency. [6783]

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Birmingham Erdington constituency. [6940]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he received from the Mayor of London on proposed changes to housing benefit *(a)* before and *(b)* after 22 June 2010. [6674]

Steve Webb: The Department has not received any representations from the Mayor of London in connection with the changes to housing benefit that were announced in the Emergency Budget.

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of private tenants who may not be able to afford their rents as a result of the reduction in housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [7029]

Steve Webb: We will publish an impact assessment for the housing benefit changes that will affect the calculation of local housing allowance rates on 23 July 2010.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-dependants living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency. [7035]

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of non-dependents living in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in East Lothian constituency. [7183]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of non-dependants in households where the main occupier is in receipt of housing benefit in Bristol East constituency. [7239]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to assess the effects of calculations based on broad market rental areas (BMRAs) on *(a)* Blackpool, *(b)* Cambridge and *(c)* other areas; what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of local housing allowance payments of the operation of BMRAs in those areas; and if he will adjust the BMRA for those areas to take account of the variation in rent levels within each BMRA. [7782]

Steve Webb: Local housing allowance (LHA) rates for all broad rental market areas in England, Scotland and Wales are published by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) on their website:

www.voa.gov.uk

The VOA has also published on their website indicative LHA rates at the 30th percentile based on data used to produce the June 2010 rates in England.

The Scottish Government have published indicative LHA rates at the 30th percentile based on data used to produce the July 2010 LHA rates in Scotland. These are available on the Scottish Government website:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/PrivateRenting/rent-registration-service-setting-lha/Figures/LHAJULY2010

This will be updated each month until LHA rates are set at the 30th percentile from October 2011.

Indicative LHA rates at the 30th percentile for broad rental market areas in Wales are not as yet published but are given in the following table. The rates are based on July 2010 data.

We will consider how best to set housing benefit areas in future as part of our longer term reform plans.

30th Percentile calculation—Wales

£

Broad Rental Market Area	*Shared 1 bedroom*	*1 bedroom*	*2 bedroom*	*3 bedroom*	*4 bedroom*
Blaenau	45.00	64.62	76.92	86.54	107.31
Brecon and Radnor	50.00	65.00	87.00	103.85	115.38
Bridgend	49.00	77.31	98.08	105.00	150.00
Caerphilly	54.00	71.54	92.31	100.00	138.46
Cardiff	54.23	98.08	126.92	144.23	184.62
Carmarthen	51.00	70.00	87.69	99.23	115.38
Ceredigion	63.50	80.77	98.08	110.00	126.92
Flint	55.00	75.00	103.85	121.15	155.77
Merthyr Cynon	45.00	65.00	80.00	87.69	110.00
Monmouth	56.54	86.54	114.23	132.69	173.08
Newport	50.00	76.15	103.85	115.38	150.00
North Clwyd	60.00	75.00	97.00	115.38	148.85
North Powys	50.00	60.00	80.77	92.31	126.92
North West Wales	50.00	65.00	85.38	98.08	121.15
NPT	54.00	75.00	87.69	98.08	114.23

30th Percentile calculation—Wales

£

Broad Rental Market Area	*Shared 1 bedroom*	*1 bedroom*	*2 bedroom*	*3 bedroom*	*4 bedroom*
Pembroke	54.00	77.54	92.31	115.38	150.00
South Gwynedd	50.00	60.00	73.85	83.08	80.00
Swansea	51.92	85.00	103.85	110.00	155.77
Taff Rhondda	45.00	62.00	84.23	90.00	126.92
Torfaen	60.00	80.77	92.31	110.77	132.69
Vale of Glamorgan	51.92	93.75	115.38	126.92	173.08
Wrexham	55.00	69.23	98.08	115.38	150.00

Note:
The rates are based on July 2010 data.
Source:
Rent Officers Wales

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010 to the hon. Member for Edinburgh North and Leith, *Official Report*, column 95W, on housing benefit, how many households receive maximum housing allowance of £104,000 annually. [7851]

Steve Webb: In June 2010 the highest local housing allowance rate was £2,000 a week which would be equivalent to 'receiving £104,000 a year in housing benefit' assuming the individual remains in receipt of the same level of benefit for 52 continuous weeks.

Information on housing benefit awards in June 2010 will be available in September 2010. The latest information the Department holds is for March 2010, when the highest local housing allowance rate was £1,800, and shows that there were some customers who received this rate.

The highest local housing allowance rate can vary each month and customers' awards will reflect the rate at the time of their claim. At March 2010 there were fewer than 100 customers receiving a housing benefit award based on the highest local housing allowance rate at the time their award was calculated.

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 364-5W, on incapacity benefit, whether further audit of a medical report subject to targeted or random audit ceases at the discovery of the first failure of contractual compliance; and if he will make a statement. [7816]

Chris Grayling: The whole report is audited and does not cease at the identification of a serious error.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Cynon Valley constituency. [6777]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 80 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Cynon Valley.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [6646]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 115 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Ashfield, 55 in Argyll and Bute, and 10 in Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

The figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Wakefield constituency. [6773]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 120 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Wakefield.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Birmingham Erdington constituency. [6938]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 160 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Birmingham Erdington.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in East Lothian constituency. [7190]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 75 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in East Lothian.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Bristol East constituency. [7237]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 55 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Bristol East.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Greater London

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Hampstead and Kilburn constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of (i) Camden and (ii) Brent. [6551]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 170 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Hampstead and Kilburn, 345 in Camden, and 475 in Brent.

The figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lewisham

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Lewisham East constituency. [6593]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 205 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Lewisham East.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Lone Parents: Bishop Auckland

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of lone parents in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [5233]

Maria Miller: In 2008, there were estimated to be 2,200 lone parents in Bishop Auckland, and 2,900 lone parents in Blackpool North and Cleveleys. These figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. The estimates are based on the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS). The latest available wave for the HAPS is 2008. It is important to note that as with any sample survey estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimates are based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for these estimates and the figures are deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Lone Parents: Greater Manchester

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents there are in Stretford and Urmston constituency. [5853]

Maria Miller: In 2008, there were estimated to be 3,100 lone parents in Stretford and Urmston. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100. The estimate is based on the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS). The latest available wave for the HAPS is 2008. In 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries were different. The information given reflects the population in the current boundaries as closely as possible. It is important to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Lone Parents: Houghton and Sunderland South

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents there are in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [5899]

Maria Miller: In 2008, there were estimated to be 3,300 lone parents in Houghton and Sunderland South. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100. The estimate is based on the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS). The latest available wave for the HAPS is 2008. In 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries were different. The information given reflects the population in the current boundaries as closely as possible. It is important to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Lone Parents: Hull

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents there are in Kingston upon Hull North constituency. [6529]

Maria Miller: In 2008, there were estimated to be 3,800 lone parents in Kingston upon Hull North. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100. The estimate is based on the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS). The latest available wave for the HAPS is 2008. In 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries were different. The information given reflects the population in the current boundaries as closely as possible. It is important to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Medical Examinations

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 364-5W, what the differences are between the medical service standards referred to and the contractual standards of the agreement between his Department and the medical services contractor. [7815]

Chris Grayling: There are no differences between Medical Services standards and the contractual standards. Medical Services standards are specified in the contract between Atos Healthcare and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Pension Protection Fund

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the deficit was of the Pension Protection Fund on the latest date for which figures are available. [6764]

Steve Webb: The last audited figure, published in the Pension Protection Fund's 2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts (page 16), reported that it had a funding ratio of 88%, with a deficit of £1,230 million.

At the time of publication, in November 2009, the PPF said

> "The lack of big claims and improvements in the investment markets since March mean we estimate that, by the end of September, our deficit had fallen back below the £1 billion mark and our funding ratio had returned to more than 90%".

The Pension Protection Fund's 2009-10 Annual Report and Accounts will be presented to Parliament later this year.

Pensioners

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Wakefield constituency. [6771]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table.

Parliamentary constituency: Wakefield

	Number
State Pension recipients	17,110
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	5,600
Pension credit household recipients	4,540

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State Pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of State Pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic State Pension, but are receiving additional State Pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic State Pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Cynon Valley constituency. [6776]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the following table.

Parliamentary constituency: Cynon Valley

	Number
State Pension recipients	13,790
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	5,510
Pension credit household recipients	4,390

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State Pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of State Pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic State Pension, but are receiving additional State Pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic State Pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Birmingham, Erdington constituency. [6946]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

	Birmingham, Erdington parliamentary constituency
State pension recipients	15,200
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	8,040
Pension credit household recipients	6,700

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [7188]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

	East Lothian parliamentary constituency	*Great Britain*
State pension recipients	20,070	11,312,340
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	5,390	3,353,830

	East Lothian parliamentary constituency	Great Britain
Pension credit household recipients	4,500	2,739,860

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension case load. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensioners: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Bristol East constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [7235]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

	Bristol East parliamentary constituency
State pension recipients	16,110
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	5,240
Pension credit household recipients	4,360

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension case load. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Pensions: Public Sector

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects his Department's review into public sector pensions to *(a)* commence and *(b)* be completed; what remuneration will be provided to Mr John Hutton for undertaking the review; what secretarial support he will be provided with; and if he will make a statement. [5771]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission was launched on 20 June. Details of the terms of reference and initial call for evidence can be found on the Treasury website under Independent Reviews at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
indreview_johnhutton_pensions.htm

The Independent Commission is due to report in time for Budget 2011.

It has been agreed that John Hutton will be paid £4,000 per month for a minimum of three days per week while conducting the review which is expected to last for a nine-month period and travel and subsistence expenses will paid in line with Treasury policy. The team to support the commission's work is not yet fully established, but John Hutton does have access to a business support manager to assist with secretarial duties.

Rents

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in Lewisham East constituency. [6587]

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency. [6552]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Members to the answer given to the hon. Member for West Lancashire (Rosie Cooper) on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 184-85W.

Social Security Benefits

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in (i) Ashfield, (ii) Argyll and Bute and (iii) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency on the most recent date for which figures are available. [6645]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided as follows:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

	Parliamentary constituency		
	Ashfield	Argyll and Bute	Na h-Eileanan an Iar
ESA	900	620	160
IB/SDA	5,100	3,260	1,060
DLA	7,030	4,670	1,370

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Case load for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, ie 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in, Great Yarmouth constituency are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* employment support allowance and *(c)* disability living allowance. [6169]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided as follows:

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

	Great Yarmouth parliamentary constituency
ESA	710
IB/SDA	4,460
DLA	6,260

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* employment support allowance in Cynon Valley constituency. [6770]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Disability living allowance and employment support allowance claimants in Cynon Valley parliamentary constituency, November 2009

	Cynon Valley parliamentary constituency
DLA	7,740
ESA	930

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA "Claimants" include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. "credits only cases".

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the Independent Living Fund. [7077]

Maria Miller: We will be considering the future position of the Independent Living Fund in the context of the spending review and our commitment to review the role and spending of all non-departmental public bodies.

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all Independent Living Fund funding approved before the change to the eligibility criteria will be disbursed. [7078]

Maria Miller: The priority of the Independent Living Fund is to support people who are already users of the fund. The Independent Living Fund will be able to honour its commitments to all existing users and to proceed with all the cases where it has already made an offer of new funding.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the level of overpayment of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* child maintenance, *(d)* maternity grant, *(e)* pension credit, *(f)* cold weather payment, *(g)* housing benefit, *(h)* council tax benefit, *(i)* employment and support allowance, *(j)* carer's allowance and *(k)* bereavement benefits in each of the last five years. [6332]

Steve Webb: National Statistics estimating the level of fraud and error in the benefit system are published every six months covering a rolling 12-month period.

The percentage levels of overpayment in each of the past five years, for the benefits which are measured, are set out in the following table.

Estimated level of overpayment due to fraud and error: 2005-06 to 2009-10

Percentage

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Disability living allowance[3]	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Pension credit[2]	4.7	5.3	5.1	5.1	4.4
Housing benefit[2]	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.9	4.4
Carer's allowance[3]	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5

[1] The 2009-10 figure is a preliminary estimate
[2] For housing benefit and pension Credit the fraud and error estimates are obtained from continuous measurement exercises.
[3] Disability living allowance (DLA) and carer's allowance (CA) are estimated from "one off" exercises covering a financial year, called National Benefit Reviews. DLA was last measured for 2004-05 and CA was last measured in 1996-97.

Source:
Fraud and Error in the Benefit System: October 2008 to September 2009

Attendance allowance, maternity grant, cold weather payment, council tax benefit, employment and support allowance and bereavement benefits are all unreviewed benefits. The rate of fraud and error on unreviewed benefits is estimated in a broad fashion, but the figures are not published separately. Where suitable proxies exist, percentage-of-expenditure results from reviewed benefits that are similar are used. Where such proxies are not available, the average of all measured benefits is used.

Child maintenance in Great Britain is the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. The Commission is a Crown non-departmental public body.

TREASURY

Energy: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which official in his Department is responsible for global energy subsidy reform policy; [6631]

(2) what steps he plans to take to implement the recommendations of the Joint Report of the International Energy Authority, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank on implementation of the G20 decision to reform energy subsidies. [6633]

Justine Greening: At the G20 summit in Pittsburgh leaders asked a number of international organisations to provide a joint report including analysis of the scope of energy subsidies and suggestions for the implementation of their commitment to phase out and rationalise inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support for the poorest.

At the recent G20 summit in Toronto leaders noted with appreciation the joint report provided by the international organisations. They also encouraged continued and full implementation of country-specific strategies to rationalise and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, taking into account vulnerable groups and their development needs.

Work by HM Treasury on global energy subsidies is led from within its International and Finance Directorate. Tom Scholar, the Second Permanent Secretary, is responsible for this directorate.

Bank Levy

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the amount of corporation tax revenue to the Exchequer from the financial services sector which will result from the reduction in the corporation tax rate from 2011-12 to 2014-15 announced in the June 2010 Budget. [7910]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Holborn and St Pancras (Frank Dobson) on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 610-11W.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to increase access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises. [7102]

Mr Gauke: The Chancellor announced immediate steps to increase access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Emergency Budget. This included:

an extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, which was increased by £200 million for this year to support additional lending for SMEs of up to £700 million until 31 March 2011;

a commitment to the Growth Capital Fund, which will provide growth capital in the range of £2 million to £10 million to growing SMEs; and

the launch of a new Enterprise Capital Fund, which will provide £37.5 million in equity finance to SMEs with high growth potential.

Small and medium-sized enterprises will also benefit from other announcements in the Budget, including the reduction in the corporation tax rate for smaller companies to 20%.

To underscore the Government's commitment to ensuring that all viable businesses have access to the finance they need over the long term, the Budget also announced the publication of a Green Paper on business finance. This will consider the broad range of finance options facing businesses of different sizes and invite views on priorities and future approaches to enhancing businesses' access to appropriate sources of finance.

Child Tax Credit

Liz Kendall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households with annual incomes of over *(a)* £15,000 and *(b)* £30,000 in (i) England, (ii) Leicester and (iii) Leicester West constituency are in receipt of child tax credits. [7096]

Mr Gauke: Analysis of the number of households with incomes over £15,000 and £30,000 in England, Leicester and Leicester West constituency is shown in the following table. This information is based on provisional information of families receiving tax credits as at April 2010.

	Number of families by household income	
	£15,000 to £30,000	*Over £30,000*
England	1,369,055	1,547,800
Leicester	9,035	4,955
Leicester West	2,145	2,045

Further details about the snapshot data used for this analysis can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Climate Change Levy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reform the Climate Change Levy to provide a price floor for carbon. [7384]

Justine Greening: As announced in the Budget, the Government will publish proposals in the autumn to reform the climate change levy to provide more certainty and support to the carbon price. Subject to that consultation, the Government will bring forward relevant legislation in Finance Bill 2011.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [6854]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury occupies two buildings in the UK, one of which is in London.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5918]

Justine Greening: The information covering the Treasury Group work managing diversity and equality obligations is set out in the following table. The figures include funding for reasonable adjustments for employees with disabilities as required by the Disability Discrimination Act.

	£
2007-08	59,543.82
2008-09	75,665.15
2009-10	107,199.32

In addition, one full-time equivalent member of Treasury staff is employed to work explicitly on equality and diversity issues.

The Treasury's Single Equality Scheme is available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_equality.htm

and sets out how the Department will meet the requirements of the equality duties in its policy formulation and as an employer.

Employment

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will publish each assessment made by his Department of the effects of implementation of the proposals in his Budget Statement on *(a)* public sector employment and *(b)* private sector employment in the UK in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14, (v) 2014-15 and (vi) 2015-16; and if he will make a statement; [5677]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the effects of the proposals in the June 2010 Budget on the number of jobs in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [6205]

Danny Alexander: To continue with the previous fiscal plans would put the recovery at risk. By acting now, the Government have reduced the risk of adverse market conditions, which would mean higher interest rates for all, stifling recovery and making the challenges ahead even harder.

The OBR released further information on its employment forecast on 30 June 2010. The OBR forecasts show that total employment is expected to rise by 1.3 million by 2015-16.

The OBR forecast release can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Sajid Javid: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 51-2WS, on Equitable Life, what progress he has made on his plans to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policyholders through an independently designed payment scheme; and if he will make a statement. [5171]

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for making payments to former Equitable Life policy holders; and when he expects the first such payment to be made. [6753]

Mr Hoban: Later this month, the Government will provide a detailed update on the steps towards implementing an independently designed payments scheme. This will be alongside Sir John Chadwick's report on relative losses suffered by Equitable Life policyholders as a consequence of the findings of maladministration and injustice made by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

European Parliament: Finance

Mr Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the *(a)* size of the budget of the European Parliament in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 and (b) the annual (A) nominal and (B) percentage change in the size of the budget in each of the last five years; what proportion of the budget heading 5 (administration) of the European Union budget is accounted for by the European Parliament budget; and if he will take steps in the Council of Ministers to reduce the costs of the European Parliament. [7942]

Justine Greening: The UK contribution faces upward pressure due to the 2005 abatement giveaway worth around €2 billion per annum by 2012.

Each year, the European Parliament (EP) budget accounts for around 20% of Heading 5 (administration) of the EU budget. The following table contains detailed data on the EP budget.

The European Parliament budget in 2010 represented just under a fifth of total spend under Heading 5. At a time when European voters are experiencing the effects of tough fiscal consolidation measures, the European Parliament needs to ensure that it is delivering maximum value for money for every euro it receives.

The UK was one of only a few member states to reject an amendment to the 2010 EU budget, increasing the European Parliament's budget this year by 9.4 million euros.

The EP budget for 2011 has not yet been agreed, so it is not possible to give data on the EP budget for that year. However, the Government believe that the proposal in the Commission's draft budget for 2011 of €8,255 million spend on administration overall is too high and must be reduced. The Government are arguing that payments in the 2011 EU budget should remain at cash levels equivalent to the 2010 budget. Further, we will continue to engage with counterparts across the EU to build support where possible to end the wasteful dual sitting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg and Brussels.

€ million

	2010	*% change*	*2009*[1]	*% change*	*2008*	*% change*	*2007*	*% change*	*2006*	*% change*	*2005*	*% change*
European Parliament	1,616	5.7	1,530	5.3	1,453	3.9	1,398	5.7	1,322	4.6	1,264	5.0
Heading 5 (admin.)	7,898	—	7,695	—	7,279	—	6,978	—	6,604	—	6,351	—
EP as a proportion of H5	20.46	—	19.88	—	19.96	—	20.03	—	20.02	—	19.90	—

[1] European Parliament numbers from 2005-07 are source: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/www/index-en.htm

Gift Aid

Dr Huppert: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effects on *(a)* charities and *(b)* Exchequer revenue of allowing gift aid arrangements to apply in full to donations made by higher rate tax payers. [7780]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs estimate that £1,007 million in gift aid repayments and transitional relief were made to charities in 2009-10. Higher rate relief, available to donors who are higher rate income tax payers, on gift aid donations to charities totalled £310 million in 2009-10.

Independent research commissioned by HMRC in 2009 suggested that approximately 80% of all higher rate relief available on donations is claimed.

Insolvency: Football

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been written off in tax revenue by the Exchequer in cases where Football Association football clubs have gone into administration in each of the last three years. [7890]

Mr Gauke: The information is not readily available centrally and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Loans: Sheffield Forgemasters

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the effect on gross domestic product of withdrawing the £80 million loan from Sheffield Forgemasters. [6374]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury does not normally hold the detailed information required to provide an estimate of the effect of such projects on gross domestic product.

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate on the effect on the balance of payments of withdrawing the £80 million loan to Sheffield Forgemasters. [6376]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury does not hold the detailed information required to provide an estimate of the net effect of such projects on the balance of payments.

Office for Budget Responsibility: Public Appointments

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who will undertake the responsibilities for the Office for Budget Responsibility discharged by Sir Alan Budd until a successor is appointed; and if he will make a statement. [7864]

Justine Greening: Sir Alan Budd is stepping down as chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) when his contract expires on 13 August 2010. Geoffrey Dicks and Graham Parker will continue to serve as interim members of the Budget Responsibility Committee until a permanent chair of the OBR has been appointed and they will be discharging the OBR's responsibilities.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were made to people in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency in 2009-10. [6642]

Mr Gauke: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effects on *(a)* expectant mothers and *(b)* the welfare of newborn children of the abolition of the health in pregnancy grant. [6665]

Justine Greening: The health in pregnancy grant will be available to all pregnant women until 1 January 2011 and therefore women who were pregnant at the time of the Budget announcement will receive this payment.

The Government's priority is to make sure that the measures they takes are fair. Therefore they have significantly increased the child element of child tax credits to ensure that the impact of the measures taken within the Emergency Budget will not have a measurable impact on child poverty rates within the next two years.

Public Expenditure

Mr Byrne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual *(a)* capital, *(b)* non-cash resource and *(c)* near cash resource departmental underspend of each Government department in fiscal year 2009-10. [6811]

Danny Alexander: Provisional outturn of departmental capital, near-cash resource and non-cash resource expenditure against final DEL provision for the financial year 2009-10 will be reported in the forthcoming Public Expenditure Provisional Outturn White Paper (PEOWP).

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether equality impact assessments will be used in determining the areas of his Department's budget in respect of which spending will be reduced. [7097]

Justine Greening: The Treasury will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken in to account in the context of its own departmental budget in compliance with our obligations under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, what assessment he has made of the implications for Wales of the savings announced. [7080]

Danny Alexander: The changes announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, do not have any additional impact on the savings announced for Wales.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to footnote 1 of Table 9.2 of the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, July 2010, how much the *(a)* end year flexibility and *(b)* reserve claims are for Wales. [7939]

Danny Alexander: End year flexibility drawdown for Wales totalled £331.3 million in 2009-10. The Welsh Assembly Government did not have any reserve claims in 2009-10 although they drew capital expenditure of £90.7 million forward from 2010-11.

Public Finance

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projects of each department have been included in the review of major spending projects approved by the previous administration between 1 January 2010 and the general election; and how much was planned to be spent under each. [6304]

Danny Alexander: On 17 June I announced the outcome of a review of 217 projects that had been approved by the previous Government between 1 January 2010 and the general election. 12 projects were cancelled as they did not demonstrate value for money, were unaffordable or did not reflect the Government's priorities, and a further 12 projects were suspended as more detailed work is needed as part of the spending review process.

Details of projects cancelled or suspended, including the spending that had been approved for each project, have been deposited with the Libraries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords (deposit number DEP2010 1320)[1]. A comprehensive list of all the remaining projects neither cancelled nor suspended has also been deposited with Parliaments Libraries (deposit number DEP2010 1327)[2].

---

[1] Paper laid in the Libraries of the House of Commons and House of Lords listing projects cancelled or suspended can be found at

http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2010/DEP2010-1320.doc

[2] Paper laid in the Libraries of the House of Commons and House of Lords listing projects neither cancelled nor suspended can be found at

http://www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2010/DEP2010-1327.doc

Public Sector: Pensions

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what remuneration will be provided to Mr John Hutton for conducting the review of public sector pensions. [4288]

Danny Alexander: The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission was launched on 20 June. Details of the terms of reference and initial call for evidence can be found on the Treasury website under Independent Reviews at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/indreview_johnhutton_pensions.htm

The Independent Commission is due to report in time for Budget 2011.

It has been agreed that John Hutton will be paid £4,000 per month for a minimum of three days per week while conducting the review which is expected to last for a nine-month period and travel and subsistence expenses will paid in line with Treasury policy. The team to support the commission's work is not yet fully established, but John Hutton does have access to a business support manager to assist with secretarial duties.

Rents

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in (A) Glasgow North and (B) Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [6145]

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rent in 2011-12 for (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in (A) Ashfield, (B) Argyll and Bute and (C) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [6640]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Members to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bishop Auckland (Helen Goodman) on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 184-5W.

The Glasgow North, Argyll and Bute, and Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituencies are a matter for the devolved Administration.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* 50th percentile rents in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents for (i), one, (ii), two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedroom properties in Birmingham Erdington constituency in 2011-12. [6934]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* 50th percentile rent in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rents in 2011-12 for properties of (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedrooms in Bristol East constituency. [7241]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Members to the answer given to the hon. Member for West Lancashire (Rosie Cooper) on 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 184-85W.

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what premises at each location in Northern Ireland are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by HM Revenue and Customs. [7171]

Mr Gauke: The majority of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) premises in Northern Ireland, along with the rest of its estate, were included in the 2001 Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) outsourcing deal with Mapeley. HMRC occupies these premises under the terms of the contract with Mapeley rather than by the terms of a traditional lease. HMRC also occupies premises in Northern Ireland by way of sharing arrangements with other Government Departments and holds two premises by way of a traditional lease.

HMRC Revenue and Customs (HMRC) retains ownership of one property in Northern Ireland, Custom House in Belfast. However as part of the STEPS deal, Mapeley have been granted a long lease of the property, and HMRC now occupies the premises under the terms of the STEPS contract and not as the freehold owner.

Details of HMRC's holdings of premises at each location in Northern Ireland are given in the following table.

Location	*Premises name*	*HMRC holding*
Antrim	Crown Buildings	Government sharing arrangement
Ballymena	Kilpatrick House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Banbridge	Bridgewater House	Leased
Belfast	Windsor House	Government sharing arrangement
Belfast	Carne House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Belfast	Beaufort House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Belfast	Scrabo Street, car park	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Belfast	Harbour Office, Spaces 1-57	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Belfast	Custom House	Owned/Mapeley, STEPS contract
Belfast	Dorchester House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Belfast	Millennium House	Leased
Coleraine	Fern House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Craigavon	Marlborough House	Government sharing arrangement
Enniskillen	Abbey House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Lisburn	Moira House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Londonderry	Foyle House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Newry	Custom House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Newry	Downshire House	Mapeley, STEPS contract
Omagh	Crown Buildings	Government sharing arrangement

Self-Employed Contributions: Fraud

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the loss of revenue to the Exchequer from people falsely claiming to be self-employed *(a)* in total and *(b)* in the construction industry in the latest period for which figures are available. [6606]

Mr Gauke: The loss of revenue to the Exchequer from people falsely claiming to be self-employed is not known. However information is available from the Construction Industry Scheme for individuals working in the construction industry. The loss of revenue to the Exchequer for people falsely claiming to be self-employed in the construction industry is estimated to be around £350 million using 2009-10 tax and national insurance rates.

Tax Avoidance

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what definition of the terms *(a)* tax avoidance and *(b)* tax efficiency his Department uses. [7667]

Mr Gauke: The Government have not published a definition of avoidance. However it is widely understood to entail taking a view of the tax treatment of a transaction that is tenable but has tax consequences that were not intended by the legislature. This does not prevent taxpayers organising their affairs in an efficient manner, consistent with the intentions of the legislation. Tackling tax avoidance is essential and we make every effort to do so.

The Government consider the economic efficiency of tax measures as part of the tax policy-making process.

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take *(a)* to reduce the levels of tax avoidance and *(b)* to close tax loopholes. [7668]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to tackling tax avoidance and will continue to take necessary steps to protect the Exchequer and maintain fairness in the tax system.

The Emergency Budget set out the Government's intention to build in sustainable defences against avoidance opportunities when undertaking policy reform and by reviewing areas of the tax system in which repeated changes have been necessary to close loopholes.

Chapter 2 of Budget document also announced a number of specific measures to counter tax avoidance.

Taxation

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the additional tax the Exchequer will recover from all individuals with incomes *(a)* below the personal allowance threshold set in the Budget, *(b)* above the personal allowance level but below the 40 per cent. tax threshold, *(c)* above the 40 per cent. threshold but below the 50 per cent. threshold and *(d)* above the 50 per cent. threshold as a result of (i) the proposed rise in the rate of value added tax and (ii) other tax measures in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [6922]

Mr Gauke: The Government have provided analysis of Budget measures to be in place by 2012-13 in Annex A of the Red Book and the total yield for each measure is provided in Table 2.1. The combined impacts of tax, tax credits and benefit changes have been assessed by household expenditure and income as set out in Annex A of the Red Book. Analysis of VAT at an individual level could be misleading as although goods and services are purchased by an individual they may be utilised by other individuals within the household. The Government therefore believe that analysis at a household level is the most appropriate. It is not possible to provide the total additional tax paid by individuals in the different income tax bands of all other tax measures.

Taxation: Banks

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what statistical forecast his Department has made of the effect on revenues to the Exchequer of the bank levy announced in the June 2010 Budget. [7909]

Mr Hoban: The estimated impact on the Exchequer of the bank levy and the analysis underpinning these estimates are set out in the following Budget 2010 document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_costings.pdf

Taxation: Environment Protection

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of the revenue to accrue to the Exchequer attributable to green taxes in 2011-12 as a result of the proposals in the Budget of *(a)* March and *(b)* June 2010. [6407]

Justine Greening: The total percentage of revenue raised by environment taxes, as a proportion of all taxes in the March 2010 Budget, was 0.4%. The total percentage of revenue raised by environment taxes, as a proportion of all taxes in the June 2010 Budget, was also 0.4%.

Landfill tax, aggregates levy, climate change levy have been included in this estimate. EU Emissions Trading Scheme revenues have also been included as the receipts have been provisionally scored as tax revenues in the Budget, and the policy objective is primarily environmental.

The Government are committed to playing their part in moving to a low carbon economy. This transition will change the shape of industry, growth and jobs. The recent Budget announced the Government's:

intention to consult in the autumn on changes to climate change levy in order to support the carbon price;

commitment to make proposals post-spending review to create a Green Investment Bank; and

confirmed plans to legislate in this parliamentary session to create a Green Deal for home energy efficiency.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to announce the results of his Department's consultation on the replacement of amusement machine licence duty by a gross profit tax regime for gaming machines. [6754]

Justine Greening: The consultation on whether to move the taxation of gaming machines from the current system of Amusement Machine Licence Duty and VAT, to a gross profits tax, ended in October 2009.

This has raised a number of issues, which are under discussion with gambling stakeholders.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average it takes to obtain a tax return form following an initial request; what steps he is taking to reduce that time; and if he will make a statement. [7557]

Mr Gauke: The majority of self assessment tax returns and 'Notice to Complete a Tax Return' (SA316) are automatically issued in April each year. Paper tax returns generated at other times take an average of one week to reach the customer. Self assessment tax returns along with supplementary pages and guidance are available on the HM Revenue and Customs website.

The majority of self assessment tax returns are filed electronically.

Taxation: Sheffield Forgemasters

Mr Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the effect on tax revenues of withdrawing the £80 million loan to Sheffield Forgemasters. [6375]

Danny Alexander: Neither HM Treasury nor HM Revenue and Customs hold the detailed information required to provide an estimate of the effect of such projects on all tax revenues.

Indirect effects of spending measures on tax revenues are not usually accounted for in Budget scorecard costings and the public finances only include such impacts if they are substantial and certain enough to affect the macroeconomic forecasts.

VAT: Charities

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many registered charities are registered for value added tax in *(a)* Wrexham, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK. [7827]

Mr Gauke: This information is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs does not categorise separately VAT registrations belonging to charities.

VAT: Fuel Poverty

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on those living in fuel poverty of the increase in the standard rate of value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [7746]

Mr Gauke: There was no change in the budget to the rate of VAT on domestic fuel and power, which continues to be 5%.

Analysis of the impact of indirect taxes, of which the increase in the standard rate of VAT is the most significant change, is provided in Annex A of the Red Book on both an income decile and expenditure decile basis.

Welfare State: Reform

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net full-year effect on the Exchequer is of changes to social security benefits announced in the June 2010 Budget. [7677]

Mr Gauke: Table 2.1 of the June 2010 Budget provides a breakdown of the direct fiscal impacts of the social security policy decisions, and Table C14 shows the combined net direct and indirect effects of all the Budget policy decisions on the social security forecast, together with other forecasting changes since the pre-Budget forecast. Chapter C also sets out the Office for Budget Responsibility's approach to forecasting the indirect economic and fiscal impacts of the Budget policy decisions.

Welfare Tax Credits

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits have an annual income of over £30,000 in Cynon Valley constituency. [6775]

Mary Creagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits have an annual income of over £30,000 in Wakefield constituency. [6774]

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits have an annual income of over £30,000 in Birmingham Erdington constituency. [6935]

Mr Gauke: Analysis of the number of households with incomes over £30,000 in the aforementioned constituencies is shown in the following table. This information is based on provisional information of families receiving tax credits as at April 2010.

Constituency	*Number of households with income over £30,000*
Birmingham Erdington	1,925
Cynon Valley	1,365
Wakefield	2,750

Further details about the snapshot data used for this analysis can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Coventry South and in receipt of tax credits have an annual income of over £30,000. [7101]

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in Clwyd South constituency have an income of over £30,000. [6992]

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Milton Keynes North constituency in receipt of tax credits have an annual income of over £30,000. [7065]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in Bristol East constituency have an income of over £30,000. [7234]

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in East Lothian constituency have an income of over £30,000. [7186]

Mr Gauke: Analysis of the number of households with incomes over £30,000 in the aforementioned constituencies is shown in the following table. This information is based on provisional information of families receiving tax credits as at April 2010.

Constituency	*Number of households with Income over £30,000*
Bristol East	2,640
Clwyd South	2,110
Coventry South	3,365
East Lothian	3,080
North East Milton Keynes	2,330

Further details about the snapshot data used for this analysis can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010'. This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of households in each UK region are in receipt of tax credits and have an annual income above £30,000. [7743]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is in the following table:

Percentage of households in receipt of tax credits with household income over £30,000

UK region	*Percentage*
England	25
Northern Ireland	21
Scotland	26
Wales	22
UK average	25

This analysis is based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about these data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010'. This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Birmingham

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Birmingham Erdington constituency are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit. [6936]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

The information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance and incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants: November 2009. Parliamentary constituency Birmingham, Erdington

	Number
Disability living allowance	7,320
Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance	5,420

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.

3. Caseload for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 percent WPLS

Welfare Tax Credits: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in each London constituency have an annual income above £30,000. [7742]

Mr Gauke: This information is published in the HMRC publication 'Household Income distribution of Tax Credits families by Westminster Constituency—April 2010'.

A copy has been placed in the Library of the House and will be published on HMRC's website shortly.

Working Tax Credit

Mr Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effect the changes to the tax credits announced in the June 2010 Budget will have on the childcare element of the working tax credit. [7062]

Mr Gauke: No changes to the child care element of the working tax credit were made at the June Budget 2010.

The reforms that were made at June Budget 2010 do not have a direct impact on the child care element of the working tax credit. The size and nature of the changes to tax credit awards following the reforms will be the same for households of equivalent income and size whether they are claiming the child care element of the working tax credit or not.

Working Tax Credit: Birmingham

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Birmingham Erdington constituency in the annual income band of *(a)* £10,000 to £20,000, *(b)* £21,000 to £30,000, *(c)* £31,000 to £40,000, *(d)* £41,000 to £50,000, *(e)* £51,000 to £60,000 and *(f)* £60,000 or more are in receipt of tax credits. [6933]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is shown in the following table. This information is based on provisional information of families receiving tax credits as at April 2010.

Families in receipt of tax credits by income band in the Birmingham Erdington constituency

Household income	*Number*
£10,000-£20,000	4,730
£20,000-£30,000	2,765
£30,000-£40,000	1,840
£40,000-£50,000	635
50,000-£60,000	265
Over £60,000	155

Further details about the data used for this analysis can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HOME DEPARTMENT

Counter-terrorism: Birmingham

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether the *(a)* automatic number plate recognition and *(b)* CCTV equipment installed in Sparkbrook, Moseley, King's Heath and Washwood Heath under Project Champion had the facility for (i) facial recognition and (ii) monitoring of conversations; [3858]

(2) what the location is of each *(a)* automatic number plate recognition and *(b)* CCTV device installed in (i) Sparkbrook, (ii) Moseley, (iii) King's Heath and (iv) Washwood Heath for the purposes of Project Champion; and whether each such device was located with the purpose of monitoring a specific individual or individuals. [3859]

James Brokenshire: The equipment under Project Champion, whether ANPR or CCTV, does not have either facial recognition or audio monitoring facilities.

The locations of the cameras installed under Project Champion are provided in maps (marked with stars) of Hall Green and Washwood Heath constituencies which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. It should be noted that there are a number of locations starred on the map where there are multiple cameras in the same place.

ANPR provides a tactical option to disrupt, deter and detect criminal activity and, by doing so, helps to increase public confidence in the police. The technology automatically reads vehicle registration marks (VRMs) allowing these details to be compared against database records. Therefore, ANPR does not "track" every journey but relies on intelligence-led policing and flags VRMs which are linked to criminality and allows the police to focus on those engaged in unlawful activity; law-abiding road users go unhindered by ANPR technology.

ANPR systems are used by the police, government agencies and commercial companies including petrol forecourts, shopping centres and car parks. The system design and intended use of Project Champion ANPR capability is consistent with policy, practice and guidance from ACPO, NPIA and extensive evaluation studies including former Police Standards Unit work on behalf of Home Office.

With regard to CCTV, I am advised that no device was located with the purpose of monitoring a specific individual or individuals. The system design and intended use of Project Champion CCTV capability is consistent with existing force policy, including advice contained in the CCTV Privacy Masking Guide issued by the British Security Industry Association.

It is important to note that on 5 July 2010 West Midlands police announced that a number of cameras installed under Project Champion would be removed, and that the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit would no longer have any involvement with the scheme. This follows an earlier announcement in June that the activation of the cameras would be suspended, pending a full public consultation later this summer.

This Government will never compromise the safety and security of the British public but neither will we sacrifice their civil liberties for their security. The Government sees a need to re-examine the balance between liberty and security and, as part of this broader agenda, is looking closely at the regulatory framework for both CCTV and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems. Work is currently under way with a view to bringing forward proposals as soon as possible.

Dorset Police: Promotion

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to prevent Dorset constabulary promoting police officers shortly before their due retirement date. [6019]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 5 July 2010]:* For promotions below chief officer level the decision as to which officers are promoted rests with the chief officer of the individual police force concerned. To support this decision, each police force is responsible for developing and implementing a fair and equitable promotion process that clearly identifies the best candidates available for the force to promote into its leadership positions.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) oversees the national processes in place to identify police officers who have the skills required to be good leaders at the rank of sergeant and inspector. The Senior Police National Assessment Centre is the promotion process to assistant chief constable, and police authorities appoint chief officers.

Police officers nearing the end of their service are eligible to apply for, and if successful, be selected for promotion. To do otherwise could disadvantage the individual and potentially deprive the service of a person of quality. Such a decision may also breach age discrimination legislation.

The Home Secretary has announced a full review of the remuneration and conditions of service for police officers and staff.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many pages of guidance the UK Border Agency has issued to licensed sponsors in the last 24 months; [5120]

(2) how many institutions have had their licences revoked since the roll-out of tier 4 of the points-based immigration system; and how many of these were *(a)* Highly Trusted Sponsors, *(b)* accredited by the British Council and *(c)* inspected by Ofsted. [5121]

Damian Green: In the last two years the UK Border Agency has issued 1,501 pages of guidance to licensed sponsors covering tiers 2, 4 and 5. This will include reissue of guidance on specific tiers. At present the tier 2 and 5 guidance stands at 83 pages and the tier 4 guidance at 70 pages.

As at 30 June 2010, 47 sponsors have had their tier 4 licence revoked since 31 March 2009. Of these none held a Highly Trusted Sponsor licence, five were accredited by the British Council and none was inspected by Ofsted.

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal migrants identified in the last 12 months, who initially entered the UK through the student visa system, had been sponsored by Highly Trusted Sponsors. [5123]

Damian Green: The number of illegal migrants identified in the last 12 months, who initially entered through the student visa system and who are now being sponsored by a Highly Trusted Sponsor is nil. The Highly Trusted Sponsor scheme came into force on 6 April 2010.

Immigration Controls: English Language

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the UK Border Agency plans to take to publicise the new English language requirement for those making immigration applications as spouses and partners. [4799]

Damian Green: On 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 11WS, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as either a spouse or civil partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

The announcement on 9 June received extensive publicity both in the UK and overseas. Information about the new policy for those making immigration applications is currently available on the UK Border Agency website. A further publicity campaign is planned.

Police: Demonstrations

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues to local police forces on the policing of marches and demonstrations by *(a)* the English Defence League and *(b)* the British National Party; and if she will make a statement. [4882]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* The Home Office has not issued guidance as the policing of marches and demonstrations is an operational matter for chief officers. The police have a range of powers to deal with any criminal activity that takes place at a demonstration. The police are committed to using their powers to ensure local communities and property are protected and I understand that a number of individuals have been arrested and charged at previous demonstrations. Local police forces do work closely with local community leaders in planning the policing of such demonstrations, and ACPO have provided good practice advice for these events.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Billing

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to reduce the number of late payments to small businesses. [7014]

Mr Prisk: UK payment data as reported by Experian show that the time taken for payments to suppliers across the economy in May 2010 was 0.5 days faster than the level recorded in May 2008. This welcome improvement has been underpinned by action to drive down public sector payment times, to encourage and promote best practice in the private sector and to improve access for businesses to best practice on managing cash flow.

The public sector is now paying suppliers faster than ever before. For the private sector, Experian calculate that Prompt Payment Code signatories now represent over 60% of UK supply chain value and there have been over 165,000 downloads of the Managing Cash Flow guides:

http://www.creditmanagement.org.uk/bisguides.htm

Experian analysis of invoices submitted to four FTSE100 companies showed that many invoices were submitted deficient or late or both. We also know that over half of UK business transactions are not covered by pre-agreed payment terms and that nine out of ten suppliers fail to credit check their customers regularly. Supporting UK business to better manage cash flow and customer relationships can therefore make a huge impact upon payment times and we are working with the UK's leading finance and business representative organisations to improve awareness.

Business: Females

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on the economy of increasing the number of women setting up businesses. [6816]

Mr Prisk: Estimates based on the latest available data indicate that an increase in the number of majority women-led businesses by 100,000 would lead to an additional £7 billion of annual output in the economy.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency, *(b)* North Lanarkshire local authority area and *(c)* Scotland have participated in the Working Capital Scheme since its inception. [7165]

Mr Prisk: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Stirling (Mrs McGuire) on 30 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 564W.

Copyright

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to bring forward legislation to provide for *(a)* an orphan works exception, *(b)* a format shifting exception and *(c)* extended collective licensing. [5090]

Mr Davey: The Government are considering, but have not yet reached a view, on what further work is needed on copyright, and the form such work would take.

Copyright Tribunal

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Second Special Report of the Science and Technology Committee, Session 2007-08, HC 637, when he plans to complete the proposed reforms to the Copyright Tribunal. [6404]

Mr Davey: The Government note the significant changes which have been made to the Copyright Tribunal since the Select Committee report was published. These include the introduction of new rules of procedure; the appointment of lay members with commercial experience; and a new secretariat. The Government hope that these changes, which were welcomed by users, will make the tribunal a more accessible, cheaper and faster forum in which to resolve disputes.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, what the breakdown by *(a)* budget area and *(b)* local authority area is of the £265 million reduction in expenditure to be made from his Department. [7031]

Mr Davey: BIS expects to make savings of £265 million from the following programmes in financial year 2010-11.

Programme		*Savings (£ million)*
Working Capital Scheme	[1]EYF	[1]65.00
Trade Credit Insurance	[1]—	[1]—
Sheffield Forgemasters	[1]—	[1]—
Automotive Assistance Package	Reserve claim	200.00
Total		265.00

[1] Indicates a brace.

The Department has made no assessment of how these savings are broken down at a local authority or regional level. The nature of the programmes affected renders any such assessment impractical.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, under which budgetary headings he expects his Department to make savings of £265 million in fiscal year 2010-11. [7519]

Mr Davey: BIS expects to make savings of £265 million from the following programmes in financial year 2010-11: Sheffield Forgemasters; the Automotive Assistance Programme; Working Capital Scheme and Trade Credit Insurance.

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6569]

Mr Davey: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6869]

Mr Davey: Like any employer, the Department has to act in accordance with a wide variety of regulation, ranging from for instance health and safety law to employment law. However, it is not standard accounting practice to distinguish regulatory compliance costs from overall running costs, whether of EU origin or domestic.

There is therefore no pre-existing breakdown of the costs imposed on it by EU regulations upon which the Department can draw to produce an estimate of such compliance. To produce such an estimate would be a major undertaking, and would involve disproportionate expenditure. By way of comparison, the administrative burdens measurement exercise, which provided an indicative estimate of administrative burdens across the UK economy, cost in excess of £10 million to undertake.

Flexible Working

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps have been taken to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees; what progress has been made on plans for the proposed consultation with businesses on this issue; and what timetable is planned for implementation of the proposal. [7906]

Mr Davey: I intend to consult on my plans to extend to the right to request flexible working to all employees later in the year.

The result of this consultation will inform the timetable for implementation going forward. I shall of course work closely with colleagues in Northern Ireland as my plans develop.

Post Codes: Databases

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what cost-benefit analysis his Department has undertaken in respect of providing free public access to the Post Code Address File. [7783]

Mr Davey: None. The PAF is owned and maintained by Royal Mail who are responsible for the costs involved in maintaining the data. Royal Mail is a business operating at arm's length from Government and competing with private sector postal operators. It is therefore appropriate for Royal Mail to be compensated for the use of the PAF data by third parties.

Post Offices

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will undertake a review of the performance of Post Office Ltd in delivering outreach services for the purposes of increasing its effectiveness, with particular reference to services in Wangford in Suffolk. [7261]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which of the services offered in a post office branch are not offered by a post office essentials service. [7767]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Post Offices: Public Consultation

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether Post Office Ltd is required to publish all responses from public consultations on *(a)* services, *(b)* closures, *(c)* premises moves and *(d)* other changes; and if he will make a statement; [7290]

(2) if he will make it his policy that Post Office Ltd should not start preparatory work on a premises move which is subject to an ongoing public consultation. [7291]

Mr Davey: I have asked David Smith, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Houses

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of pubs which are linked to pub companies; what recent assessment he has made of the level of competitiveness of such pubs; and if he will make a statement. [6731]

Mr Davey: This Department does not collect information on the ownership of pubs. Such information is available in commercially produced reports. This Department has not made any recent assessments into the level of competitiveness within the sector. However, the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee and the Office of Fair Trading have recently looked into a range of competition issues impacting on the sector.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of tax incentives provided for research and development in each year from 2005-06 to 2009-10; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such incentives; and if he will make a statement. [6462]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The numbers and costs of R and D tax credit claims are published as National Statistics on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

The most recent figures, published on 18 December 2009, cover financial years up to 2007-08. Figures for 2008-09 are scheduled to be published in October 2010; those for 2009-10 are not available.

As part of the plans for corporate tax reform, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced at the Emergency Budget that the Government will consult with business in autumn 2010 to review the taxation of intellectual property, the support R and D tax credits provide for innovation and the proposals of the Dyson review.

Science: Higher Education

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the infrastructure capacity of local colleges to enable them to deliver the practical component of applied science programmes for students of external university degree programmes. [6898]

Mr Hayes: Universities are responsible for the facilities and delivery of all their higher education courses including those delivered in a further education college. However, where the college is directly funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) it is also eligible for capital funding from that source.

HE courses delivered in FE colleges are subject to external scrutiny by the Quality Assurance Agency acting on behalf of HEFCE to ensure they meet the appropriate academic standards and that there is accountability for public funds.

Further education capital investment is managed by the Skills Funding Agency who will assess all Skills Funding Agency projects to ensure proposed projects fit the educational case on which the projects intend to support.

EDUCATION

School League Tables

19. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to change arrangements for school league tables; and if he will make a statement. [6974]

Mr Gibb: We will reform the annual school performance tables to ensure that a sharper and more authoritative set of data will be available to all parents in the future. We want the tables to demonstrate the standards that schools are achieving and the progress that pupils of all abilities are making. As part of our commitment to transparency, we will also publish a much wider range of data that the Department currently holds on schools.

School Discipline

20. **Jason McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to improve standards of discipline in schools. [6975]

Mr Gibb: It is this Government's intention to give heads and teachers the powers they need to ensure discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour. In a statement to the House on 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 11-12WS, I announced that we will take steps to strengthen teachers' powers to search pupils; issue shorter and clearer guidance on the use of force; and remove the requirement to give 24 hours' written notice when giving pupils detentions. We will also give teachers the strongest possible protection from false accusations.

Children of Armed Forces Personnel

21. **Caroline Dinenage:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to improve access to school places for children of armed forces personnel; and if he will make a statement. [6976]

Michael Gove: The Government recognise the enormous contribution made by the armed forces, and are determined to support them. Fair access to school places is regulated by a statutory School Admissions Code, which already provides some priority for services children. I will consider whether the code needs to be amended and make an announcement in due course.

Free Schools

22. **Graham Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many proposals for free schools his Department has received from groups in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* the Halton borough council area and *(c)* the Cheshire west and chester unitary Authority area. [6977]

Mr Gibb: As of 7 July the Department for Education had not received any proposals to establish free schools from groups in the Weaver Vale constituency, Halton borough council area or in the Cheshire west and Chester unitary authority area. I understand that the New Schools Network has received several hundred inquiries of which 38 have already let to formal proposals.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether people may establish free schools in the form of grammar schools. [456]

Mr Gibb: Current grammar schools are eligible for conversion to academies.

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what conditions the New Schools Network will be obliged to meet in assessing applications for the construction of new Free Schools. [5202]

Mr Gibb: The New Schools Network are providing advice and support to proposers interested in setting up Free Schools, on behalf of the Department. The role of the New Schools Network is to help interested groups develop their ideas and prepare to submit their proposal form, not to assess applications.

The Department will assess proposal forms and consider whether they have the potential to lead to an acceptable business case and plan for the new school, which Ministers may approve. The decision which Ministers take will be based on the criteria published at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/freeschools/frequently-asked-questions#r1

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the likely number of successful applications for free school status to be processed by the end of 2010. [5206]

Mr Gibb: We have made no estimate of the likely number of successful applications for Free Schools that will be processed by the end of 2010. This will depend on the number of groups who come forward with proposals to set up new schools and how many of these groups successfully complete the rigorous application and approval process.

Academies Bill

23. **Toby Perkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received on the provisions of the Academies Bill. [6978]

Mr Gibb: We have received a number of representations relating to the provisions contained within the Academies Bill. These have included teacher representative organisations, the Special Education Consortium, the Church of England and the Catholic Education Service.

Alongside these representations we have also had approaches from individual Peers and Members of this House.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of his Department's officials are working on the Academies Bill. [5028]

Michael Gove: A dedicated Bill team of five officials with support from a lead Bill lawyer are currently working on the Academies Bill. In addition, a number of other colleagues (policy officials, legal advisers and private office staff) spend some of their time working on the Bill alongside other responsibilities.

Academy Status

24. **Henry Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest in academy status his Department has received from schools in *(a)* Crawley constituency, *(b)* the West Sussex local education authority area and *(c)* England. [6979]

Mr Gibb: So far one expression of interest in academy status has been received from a school in Crawley constituency. Ten expressions of interest in academy status have been received from schools in West Sussex. A total of 1,836 expressions of interest have been received from schools in England.

Teach First Programme

25. **Caroline Flint:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of participants in the Teach First programme who have stayed in the teaching profession after completing the programme. [6980]

Mr Gibb: The most recent figures up to 2007 show that 416 Teach First participants remain in teaching in the UK after completing the programme. This represents 49% of all Teach First participants since 2003. Of the 416 that have remained in teaching, 240 are now in leadership positions within schools.

ContactPoint

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education from what *(a)* local and *(b)* national data sources information was collected for the ContactPoint database. [6957]

Tim Loughton: The basic information on ContactPoint was drawn from a number of national sources, including the General Register Office, the Department for Education's Schools Census, the child benefit database and the NHS Personal Demographics Service. In addition local authorities and national partners had begun to add information from a range of local sources, including social care systems.

Academies

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the application of the National Curriculum in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* science and (d) ICT to teaching in academy schools; and what steps he plans to take on curriculum freedoms in academy schools. [1206]

Mr Gibb: Academies are not required to follow the National Curriculum. Academies will still be required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* secondary, *(b)* primary and *(c)* special schools have applied to become academies under his recent proposals. [3582]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 June 2010]:* We have released this information at:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

This list will be updated regularly.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in England are academies; and how many such schools offer sixth form provision. [4019]

Mr Gibb: There are currently 203 academies open; 174 of these academies offer sixth form provision.

Academies: Food

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that academy schools meet the same requirements as other schools in respect of the *(a)* provision of school meals and other food in schools and *(b)* teaching about food and nutrition. [4719]

Mr Gibb: The freedom and autonomy enjoyed by academies is crucial to enabling them to drive up standards.

We believe that academies should have the freedom to respond to parental demand and provide a high standard of food and an appropriate curriculum that best meets the needs of their pupils. We will require academies to provide free school meals for pupils who are entitled to them in the same way as for maintained schools.

Academies: Tamworth

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Tamworth constituency are applying for academy status. [2875]

Mr Gibb: No schools in Tamworth have yet applied. The lists of schools that have expressed an interest in conversion to academy status have been published on the Department for Education website.

Academies: Wigan

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the allocation of funding to local education authorities where no school applies for academy status. [1755]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities currently receive funding for maintained schools through the dedicated schools grant, which is calculated using a guaranteed unit of funding (GUF) for each pupil in a local authority. The funding is distributed to schools using a local formula on which the local authority's Schools Forum is consulted.

The Government have committed to changes to the funding system through the introduction of a pupil premium for disadvantaged pupils. We are reviewing if changes need to be made to the current funding system and we expect to be launching a consultation on school funding in the summer.

Care Proceedings

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much local authorities spent on residential assessments in care proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [5763]

(2) how much local authorities spent on psychiatrists' and psychologists' fees in care proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [5764]

(3) how much was incurred in costs by local authority legal departments in representing the authority in care proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [5768]

(4) how much was spent by local authorities on fostering children subject to care proceedings in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [5769]

Tim Loughton: Information about how much local authorities spend on residential assessments, psychiatrists' and psychologists' fees and legal representation in care proceedings and on fostering children subject to care proceedings is not collected centrally.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was spent by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service on the provision of guardians in care proceedings in each of the last five years; and what proportion of its budget this represents in each such year. [5770]

Tim Loughton: The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service's (CAFCASS's) funded expenditure for each year was:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2009-10	132.449
2008-09	120.627
2007-08	108.550
2006-07	106.087
2005-06	98.613

These figures comprise CAFCASS's grant in aid funding from the Department for Education and additional funding from the Department for specific activities. In this spending review period (2008-11), this additional funding has been for Contact Point and Family Contact Services.

CAFCASS's allocated programme resource budget for 2010-11 is £138.2 million (including a one-off allocation of £10 million for service improvement). This excludes additional funding from the Department for specific activities.

How CAFCASS spend their allocated budget each year is an operational matter for CAFCASS. The chief executive of CAFCASS, Anthony Douglas, will respond by letter to the hon. Member and a copy of his response will be placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated July 2010:

I am writing to you in response to Parliamentary Question that you tabled recently:

PQ005770: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much was spent by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service on the provision of guardians in care proceedings in each of the last five years; and what proportion of its budget this represents in each such year.

Cafcass does not collect specific figures relating to how much is spent on the provisions of guardians in care proceedings. Cafcass practitioners work in both public and private law proceedings. Cafcass also utilises the services of approximately 300 self-employed contractors, most of which, work as children's guardians in care cases.

Please note, there has been a significant increase in the past 18 months in care applications by local authorities and the total expenditure of Cafcass has also increased over the last 5 years, this is reflected in the table below.

	Public law care requests	*Total expenditure of Cafcass (£ million)*
2009/10	8,684	132.449
2008/09	6,496	120.627
2007/08	6,241	108.550
2006/07	6,786	106.087
2005/06	6,613	98.613

Children: Carers

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Education in how many households in South Thanet constituency a child under the age of 18 years fulfils the role of a carer for a disabled parent. [2686]

Tim Loughton: There is no central collection of local or national data on the number of children under the age of 18-years-old who provide care for a disabled parent.

However, a 2004 study of 6,178 young carers (Chris Dearden and Saul Becker) found that half (50%) of those young people providing care were doing so for someone with a disability. The same research indicates that over two-thirds (70%) of young carers are caring for an adult.

Children: Databases

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation he has received from *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* children's organisations on his Department's decision to end the ContactPoint database. [1938]

Tim Loughton: We have confirmed with local authorities and other partners our firm intention to end the ContactPoint database as soon as is practicable. Both coalition partners' manifestos included a clear commitment to scrap ContactPoint, to fulfil a longstanding policy commitment, discussed with a wide range of interested organisations in recent years. We have consistently opposed a database, which contains details about all children in England, accessed by hundreds of thousands of people and we signalled our opposition in debates on the original legislation in the 2004 Children Act.

The Department has received no representations from local authorities or children's organisations on this Government's decision. We will however continue to engage with and draw on the views of a wide range of organisations as we consider the scope for a more proportionate approach to protecting children most in need.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on first quarter grant payments to local authorities in respect of the ContactPoint database in June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [1939]

Tim Loughton: We have confirmed with local authorities and other partners our firm intention to end the ContactPoint database as soon as is practicable. Both coalition partners' manifestos included a clear commitment to scrap ContactPoint, to fulfil a longstanding policy commitment. We are considering the scope for a more proportionate approach to protecting children most in need.

In the interim, while ContactPoint remains in limited operation, my Department has provided guidance on what local authorities and partners should do to ensure the safe and legal operation. The Department has paid local authorities £3.75 million to cover costs of operating ContactPoint during the period April to June 2010. We are considering the extent of grant funding beyond this period, and more detailed plans on the way forward will be announced later in the summer.

Departmental Catering

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4854]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is not separately identified within the Department's published resource accounts. Detailed records on catering expenditure are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the expenditure by his Department and its predecessors on *(a)* organising and *(b)* attending conferences in each year since 1997. [5939]

Tim Loughton: The information requested is not separately identified within the Department's published resource accounts. Detailed records on the costs of organising and attending conferences are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much was spent on *(a)* refreshments and *(b)* furnishings in his private office in each year from 2005 to 2010. [5623]

Tim Loughton: The information requested on refreshments is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The amount spent on furnishings in the Secretary of State's private office in each year from 2005 to 2010 by the previous Government is as follows:

	£
2005-06	Nil
2006-07	21,039.10
2007-08	1496.26
2008-09	5232.32
2010-11	Nil
Total (inc VAT)	27,767.68

All spending is made in accordance with the principles set out in 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Postal Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on postage in 2009. [3341]

Tim Loughton: In the period January-December 2009, the predecessor to the Department for Education, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, spent a total of £160,882 on postage directly and through its distribution partner.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review. [3636]

Tim Loughton: We are in the process of identifying contracts for review from which savings can be made through renegotiation or termination. The total value of all those contracts or the potential savings will not be known until the scale of the activity is determined.

Following this preparatory work a project plan will be produced detailing the potential costs and benefits along with a schedule of activity.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to analyse the distributional effect of the options for reductions in his Department's expenditure. [5213]

Tim Loughton: The Government set out in their document 'Spending Review Framework' that it will "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7)

Further information will be available at the spending review.

Departmental Travel

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* name and *(b)* version is of each computer software package used by his Department to calculate its expenditure on travel. [3877]

Tim Loughton: To calculate its expenditure on travel, the Department for Education (DfE) uses a set of software packages provided to it by the Department for Work and Pensions as part of the shared services agreement between the two Departments.

The main software package used is the Oracle Resource Management system version 11.5.10, which itself uses two underpinning software systems (Discoverer and Discoverer Plus system versions 10G) to calculate and produce financial reports to budget holders and senior management on travel expenditure. These reports can also optionally be downloaded locally and converted into spreadsheet format using Microsoft Excel version 2003 which is installed on every computer.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to publish the report of the cross-government review of financial support for 16 to 18 year olds commissioned by his Department's predecessor; and if he will make a statement. [5453]

Mr Gibb: The Department has published the Barriers to Participation in Education and Training research which was commissioned to inform the review on the Department's website on 24 June 2010. We have no plans to publish anything further. The evidence collected will inform the comprehensive spending review in the autumn.

Education: Finance

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had on education funding with the F40 group since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [3328]

Mr Gibb: I have not had any formal discussions with the F40 group since being appointed Minister for Schools, though I have met them in the past and spoke at their conference in Church House last November.

I am aware that the F40 group represents the local authorities who received the lowest per pupil funding under the present funding system. This Government have already committed to changes to the funding system through the introduction of a pupil premium for disadvantaged children. As well as the premium, any changes to the funding system will need to support our policy objective of raising standards and closing the attainment gap between those from the richest and poorest in society. We expect to be launching a consultation on school funding in the summer.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the consultancy budget is for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the education service in 2010-11. [5502]

Tim Loughton: The Department's budget for consultancy in 2010-11 is £54.5 million. This amount was allocated prior to the recent reductions in the budget of the Department and the forthcoming spending review may result in further changes being made.

Separate figures for educational services beyond the immediate Department are not available.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for a further phase of the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme to fund work by the third sector to improve educational outcomes. [6468]

Tim Loughton: Decisions on the policy and funding priorities for the Department for Education including the future of the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme are still under consideration. As soon as we are in a position to provide clarity to organisations, we will, of course, make a formal announcement.

Education: Public Appointments

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people are employed as *(a)* regional advisers on 14 to 19 education and *(b)* support staff to 14 to 19 regional advisers. [4082]

Michael Gove: There are currently 11 14-19 regional advisers; one per English Government office region, a 14-19 rurality adviser and a 14-19 gender equalities adviser.

Regional advisers do not have support staff, but work closely with Government offices and a number of regional and local partners.

My letter to the right hon. Member for Morley and Outwood (Ed Balls) of 7 June stated that the role of 14-19 advisers would not continue from September.

Foster Care

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to enable foster carers to continue to care for those who have been in foster care after they reach the age of 18; and if he will make a statement. [5506]

Tim Loughton: The Government are currently funding a programme of Staying Put 18+ pilots which support young people to stay with their foster carers up until the age of 21 so that they can make a more gradual transition into adulthood. The pilot is being evaluated by the University of Loughborough and we will use the evaluation evidence to help spread best practice among all local authorities.

Free School Meals

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools rated (i) outstanding and (ii) other than outstanding by Ofsted are eligible for free school meals. [4522]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 25 June 2010:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The latest period for which published figures about maintained school section 5 inspection outcomes are available is the spring term of 2009/10. This answer, therefore, takes into account those schools which were open on 21 April 2010 and had received an inspection on or before 31 March 2010. This period spans two different school inspection frameworks, the first covering September 2005 to August 2009 and the second from September 2009 onwards.

Information about the number of pupils on roll and the number of pupils eligible for free school meals in each school has been taken from the Department for Education's 2009 January School Census. The number on roll at each school has been adjusted, in line with Department for Education National Statistics, to remove part time pupils aged under five and any students aged 16 or over at the start of the academic year as they are not able to claim free school meals regardless of their economic circumstances. Information on which schools were open on 21 April 2010 has been taken from the Department for Education's Edubase system.

In this answer the term 'secondary school' is used to cover maintained secondary schools including middle deemed secondary schools, academies and city technology colleges.

On 31 March 2010 there were 22,249 schools open and eligible for a section 5 inspection in England. Two hundred and fifty-eight open schools which have not yet been inspected by Ofsted are excluded from this analysis, as are maintained nursery schools, special schools and pupil referral units. This leaves a pool of 16,904 primary schools and 3,189 secondary schools to contribute to this answer.

Of those primary schools judged outstanding during their most recent inspection, 12.8% of pupils were recorded as eligible for free school meals. Of those primary schools that were judged good, satisfactory or inadequate during their latest inspection, 17.8% of pupils were recorded as eligible for free school meals.

Of those secondary schools judged outstanding during their most recent inspection, 11.4% of pupils were recorded as eligible for free school meals. Of those secondary schools that were judged good, satisfactory or inadequate during their latest inspection, 14.7% of pupils were recorded as eligible for free school meals.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future *(a)* eligibility for and *(b)* funding available for the provision of free school meals. [4865]

Mr Gibb: All pupils who meet the current eligibility criteria will continue to receive free school meals. There are no current plans to extend free school meal eligibility or increase free school meal funding. We will look again at the case for any extension in the light of evidence from pilots of extended eligibility in Durham, Newham and Wolverhampton which are running until July 2011.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on which date he informed the Secretary of State for Health of the proposed decision not to extend entitlements to free school meals. [5165]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Health was informed of the decision not to take forward the previous Administration's significantly under-funded and unaffordable plan to extend eligibility to free school meals on 7 June. All children who are currently eligible for free school meals will continue to be eligible and we are continuing to support three pilots which are exploring the costs and benefits of extending eligibility. We shall review the case for any extension when we have that evidence.

Free School Meals: North East

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average cost per pupil of providing free school meals in the North East for *(a)* primary school children and *(b)* secondary school children was in the latest period for which figures are available. [1963]

Mr Gibb: This information is not held by the Department. It is for each local authority to decide what they charge for a school meal, based, for example, on the local cost of food, catering services, fuel costs and whether, and if so how much, they subsidise school meals. From this local authorities then decide how much cost they can apportion to a free school meal.

However, the School Food Trust's latest survey of school food take up shows that the average school lunch prices in 2009 were £1.77 in the LA-catered primary sector and £1.88 in the LA-catered secondary sector.

Further Education

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which Minister in his Department has responsibility for *(a)* sixth form colleges and *(b)* 14 to 19 year olds in further education colleges. [5454]

Mr Gibb: I am Minister responsible for sixth form colleges and 14 to 19-year-olds in further education colleges.

GCSE: Leicester

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of pupils from each ethnic background gained five GSCEs at grades A* to C in Leicester local authority area in each of the last five years. [3531]

Mr Gibb: The information required is given in the following table:

Percentage of pupils achieving five or more grades A-C at GCSE including equivalents in selected years*

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
White	35	38	41	43	53
Mixed	45	50	48	53	63
Asian	59	61	66	69	76
Black	40	43	44	51	66
Chinese	57	67	[2]—	89	100
All pupils-	46	48	52	55	65

[1] Includes pupils for whom ethnicity was not obtained or refused, or could not be determined.

[2] Indicates that the figure was suppressed in order to protect pupil confidentiality as fewer than 10 pupils sat exams.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Iraq

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the budget is of each current project in Iraq funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [4783]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education funds no projects in Iraq.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he plans to publish the Sex and Relationships Education Guidance to Schools, issued for consultation in January 2010; and if he will make a statement; [5432]

(2) what assessment he has made of the compatibility of his proposals for sex and relationship education with proposed guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on sex and relationships education within personal, social, health and economic education; and if he will make a statement. [5433]

Mr Gibb: We are currently considering our approach to sex and relationships education and, in particular, how we take forward our manifesto commitment to ensure that the school curriculum includes teaching young people about sexual consent. Schools will need some guidance to support them in this, but it is too soon to say whether it will cover all of the issues that were included in the guidance that was published for consultation in January 2010, or the draft guidance published recently by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Schools are required by law to 'have regard to' guidance issued by the Secretary of State. At present, that duty applies to the SRE guidance published in 2000.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what files his Department holds on *(a)* sexual and reproductive health education and *(b)* personal, social and health education; and if he will make a statement. [5437]

Mr Gibb: Policy on abortion and sexual and reproductive health is a matter for my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health. In the case of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education the Department maintains records in the normal way.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency will not receive the pupil premium. [3617]

Mr Gibb: The Government are committed to the introduction of a pupil premium for disadvantaged children, and we will bring forward our proposals in due course.

Pupils: Heart Diseases

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many incidents of sudden cardiac arrest involving pupils on school property there were in each of the last five years; and how many such incidents resulted in death. [3919]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect these data.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much per pupil funding was allocated to Bury Metropolitan Borough Council for *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special schools in each year from 1996-97 to 2010-11. [5951]

Mr Gibb: Per pupil revenue funding figures for primary school pupils in Bury (ages three to 10) are shown in the following table. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£)—SSA/EFS plus grants

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bury local authority	2,390	2,570	2,760	2,990	3,170	3,250	3,490	3,620	3,830

Notes:

1. Price Base: real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 31 March 2010.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 10 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Per pupil revenue funding figures for secondary school pupils in Bury (ages 11 to 15) are shown in the following table. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£)—SSA/ EFS plus grants

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bury local authority	3,350	3,450	3,560	3,840	4,020	4,140	4,280	4,540	4,730

Notes:

1. Price Base: real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 31 March 2010.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 11 to 15 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DfES grant for these LAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Figures for special schools are not available on a comparable basis.

Figures prior to 1997-98 are not available on a comparable basis.

Since 2006-07, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been the main source of school funding, and this does not allow a primary/secondary split of the figures. These figures are not comparable with those for earlier years because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

Per pupil unit of funding figures for 2005-06 to 2009-10 for Bury local authority are provided as follows. Finalised figures for 2010-11 are not yet available. The figures shown are for all funded pupils aged three to 19 and are in real terms:

Real terms funding per pupil (£)—DSG plus grants pupils aged three to 19

	2005-06[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bury local authority	4,140	4,240	4,390	4,430	4,560

[1] Baseline.

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 31 March 2010.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what grants his Department made to Bury Metropolitan borough council for schools outside the per pupil funding formula for each year from 1996-97 to 2010-11. [5952]

Mr Gibb: Tables have been placed in the Libraries, setting out the grants allocated to Bury Metropolitan borough council for schools for each year since 1996-1997. These grants were allocated in addition to per pupil formula funding allocated through the local government finance system up to 2005-2006, and Dedicated Schools Grant since 2006-07.

Pupils: Sikhs

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 428W, on pupils: Sikhs, by what date he plans to have completed consideration of the law and agreed practice on carrying kirpans in schools. [5747]

Mr Gibb: Cross-Government discussions with the Sikh community continue; these are expected to continue until after the summer recess, with decisions taken in the autumn.

Schools: Discipline

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what evidence his Department has assessed on the effects of no notice detentions on discipline in school. [5079]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* We will be consulting with many organisations in the development of discipline policy. The introduction of no notice detentions would not remove the requirement for schools to act reasonably when making the necessary arrangements for detentions.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with organisations representing children who are carers on no notice detentions. [5089]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* We will be consulting with many organisations in the development of discipline policy. The introduction of no notice detentions would not remove the requirement for schools to act reasonably when making the necessary arrangements for detentions.

Schools: Erewash

Jessica Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received from *(a)* headteachers, *(b)* parents and *(c)* charities in the borough of Erewash in favour of greater autonomy for schools. [5207]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received two registrations of interest from schools wanting further information on converting to academies—The Long Eaton School and Kirk Hallam Technology College. A list of all outstanding and non-outstanding schools that have registered an interest in converting to academy status was published on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/academies/schools-registering-interest

on 25 June. No other recent representations have been received from the borough of Erewash.

Schools: Finance

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on limiting *(a)* the number of schools to receive grants, *(b)* the amount of such grant and *(c)* the terms of each grant he has the power to award to schools. [5167]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* We have no plans to limit the number of schools that can receive grants. Decisions about which grant will be available to schools in the future will be taken as part of the next spending review process in the autumn.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the total reserves held by schools in England; and what reserves were held by such schools in each financial year since 1985-86. [5168]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 1 July 2010]:* Local authority maintained schools in England had a total net revenue balance of £1.78 billion for the financial year 2008-09. The Government started to collect data on revenue balances from 1999-2000, when the figure was £741 million. The 1999-2000 figure does not include maintained nursery schools; these data were first collected in 2003-04. There are no relevant data for the years before 1999-2000.

This information, along with breakdowns of surpluses and deficits at England, local authority and school level from 1999-2000 to present are currently available on the section 251 website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/financeandfunding/informationforlocalauthorities/section52/schoolbalances/s52sb/

Schools: Leeds

Mr Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussion she has had with representatives of Leeds Local Authority on the future of Parklands Girls School in Leeds. [5561]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with representatives of Leeds local authority on the future of Parklands Girls School in Leeds. However, officials have had discussions with Education Leeds about the school in question and are awaiting a decision from Leeds city council about the future of Parklands Girls School following its publication of a statutory proposal on 16 April 2010 to close Parklands Girls School on 31 August 2011 and replace it with an academy opening on 1 September 2011.

Schools: Management

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of teaching posts there will be in free schools. [4806]

Mr Gibb: The number of teaching posts in free schools will depend on the number of groups who come forward with proposals to set up new schools, how many of these groups successfully complete the rigorous application and approval process and the staffing structures and size of the new schools.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education who will be responsible for the provision of services to pupils with special educational needs in free schools; and if he will make a statement. [4807]

Mr Gibb: Like academies, the funding agreement contract will include provisions which require the school to have regard to the SEN Code of Practice and use best endeavours to meet any guidance on exclusions. Where a school fails to meet its SEN funding agreement obligations, the Secretary of State has the role of ensuring that those obligations are met. Disability discrimination legislation will also apply to free schools to prevent discrimination against disabled pupils and, as with other schools, free schools will have to make reasonable adjustments to prevent such discrimination.

Schools: Sports

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms are in place to prevent the sale or redevelopment of school sports facilities other than playing fields. [4001]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 29 June 2010]:* The legislation that protects school playing fields, under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, extends to all of a school's outdoor areas. No school or local authority in England can dispose or change the use of a school playing field or any part of a school playing field without the Secretary of State's consent. The legislation defines playing fields as land in the open air which is provided for the purposes of physical education or recreation, and includes playgrounds, hard games courts, social areas etc as well as grassed playing fields.

Schools: Standards

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the Black Country Challenge programme; and if he will make a statement. [1513]

Mr Gibb: The Department has not taken any decisions on the Black Country Challenge programme.

Schools: Transport

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's budget is for 16 to 19 *(a)* school and *(b)* transport for 2010-11. [4020]

Mr Gibb: No specific funding is provided by central Government to fund post-16 transport. Local authority statutory responsibilities for transport in relation to post-16 students are funded through revenue support grant and through income generated by councils, including council tax. Formula grant is not hypothecated to a particular service. Local authorities are free to use the funding in line with the wishes of their electorate to meet local needs while taking into account their statutory responsibilities.

The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) has also provided £12 million in 2010-11 (and in each of the previous four years) through the transport partnership fund to support the development of local innovative and sustainable transport projects.

Science: GCE A-level

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to encourage an increase in the number of students studying scientific subjects at A-Level. [6036]

Mr Gibb: The Government recognise that more needs to be done to inspire greater numbers of young people to study science subjects at A-level. The quality of teaching in schools will be a key factor in this and we have already made it clear we will seek to attract more science and maths graduates into teaching. We will also be looking at what more can be done to support this in our pursuit of a fairer education system including reform of curriculum and qualifications.

Sixth Form Colleges: Inspections

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the frequency of Ofsted inspections of sixth form colleges graded outstanding; and if he will make a statement. [4519]

Mr Gibb: We want to give all outstanding schools and colleges freedom from bureaucracy. The Government are therefore working to remove the requirement for outstanding sixth form colleges to be subject to the routine cycle of Ofsted inspections, unless their performance drops.

Sixth Form Education

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many secondary schools graded as outstanding by Ofsted do not have a sixth form. [4518]

Mr Gibb: As of May 2010 there were 626 secondary schools that were graded as outstanding by Ofsted in their most recent inspection. Of these, 191 schools do not have a sixth form.

Sixth Form Education: Tamworth

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether each school in Tamworth constituency which has applied for academy status will be able to retain a sixth form if successful. [4120]

Mr Gibb: The plans for a new academy in Tamworth to open from September 2010 and for this academy to include an 860 place post-16 centre from September 2011 are well advanced. The post-16 centre would replace several school sixth forms and forms part of Staffordshire's cross-Tamworth proposals for secondary and post-16 education. We would want to consider how any application for academy status from other schools with sixth forms in Tamworth would impact on the new Tamworth Academy.

Special Educational Needs

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to improve the standard of training of teachers in respect of pupils with special educational needs. [2799]

Tim Loughton: The Government are committed to raising the status of the teaching profession and to moving to a high quality system of teacher recruitment and training.

I am reviewing existing policies and programmes to make sure that they support our commitment to high quality teacher training including in respect of pupils with special educational needs.

Teachers are able to increase their awareness of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) through information available to them about children with SEN as a result of the SEN Information Act 2008. The second report, following this Act, will be published in October 2010 and brings together information about children with SEN in one place.

Teachers: Hartlepool

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the teacher to pupil ratio was in each school in Hartlepool constituency in each of the last five years. [5411]

Mr Gibb: The following table provides the within school pupil:teacher ratio (PTR) in each local authority maintained school in the Hartlepool constituency in each January from 2005 to 2009, the latest year for which information is available.

Pupil:teacher ratios (PTR)[1,2] in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools[3]—Each January 2005 to 2009: Coverage: Hartlepool parliamentary constituency

					Pupil teacher ratio	
LAESTAB No.	*School name*	*2005*	*200*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Nursery						
8051013	Seaton Carew Nursery School	10.0	8.9	11.6	12.9	14.3
Primary						
8052001	Hart Primary School	18.0	19.6	17.7	17.5	18.2
8052090	Brougham Primary School	22.5	24.5	19.8	18.2	18.7
8052126	Golden Flatts Primary School	22.3	19.5	20.1	18.5	16.6
8052127	Jesmond Road Primary School	18.4	22.5	20.3	23.4	19.7
8052151	Eldon Grove Primary School	23.9	232	22.3	18.8	19.4
8052153	Lynnfield Primary School	22.2	22.3	21.8	21.8	19.7
8052156	Stranton Primary School	22.6	20.4	18.5	17.4	18.1
8052181	Ward Jackson Primary School	15.3	19.0	23.5	14.1	13.7
8052182	Owton Manor Primary School	17.7	16.7	16.5	15.4	15.0
8052187	Fens Primary School	26.1	24.2	23.2	23.6	24.2
8052189	Kingsley Primary School	21.8	24.0	22.1	20.5	18.6
8052211	St Helen's Primary School	19.6	22.6	20.3	20.2	21.5
8052215	West View Primary School	20.7	22.7	20.0	18.1	19.0
8052236	Throston Primary School	21.8	21.5	25.0	20.5	21.4
8052237	West Park Primary School	24.6	22.7	23.5	22.9	24.2
8052238	Clavering Primary School	22.6	22.6	19.6	21.8	20.6
8052310	Barnard Grove Primary School	23.2	21.0	21.5	19.4	21.7
8052341	Rift House Primary School	18.4	19.8	18.5	19.6	19.9
8052342	Rossmere Primary School	22.2	19.5	24.7	27.5	19.1
8052364	Grange Primary School	19.0	16.8	15.8	18.0	18.5
8053003	Elwick Hall CofE Primary School	19.9	22.5	24.7	25.1	20.2
8053006	Greatham CofE Primary School	19.5	19.5	19.6	20.5	19.3
8053320	St Aidan's CofE Memorial Primary School	25.2	23.1	21.3	20.9	27.3
8053321	Sacred Heart RC Primary School	26.8	25.3	23.8	25.2	22.3
8053322	St Cuthbert's RC Primary School	25.4	25.7	27.4	23.1	25.1
8053323	St Joseph's RC Primary School	26.8	24.4	20.7	18.6	18.5
8053324	St Teresa's RC Primary School	22.9	21.0	21.6	22.5	23.1
8053328	St Bega's RC Primary School	23.8	21.1	18.1	19.9	20.5
8053329	St John Vianney RC Primary School	23.0	20.9	20.6	20.4	22.1
8053330	Holy Trinity Church of England (Aided) Primary School	27.8	24.4	25.0	24.4	24.6
Secondary						
8054000	St Hild's Church of England Voluntary Aided School	14.7	14.7	15.7	17.3	15.9
8054130	Brierton Community School (A Specialist Sports College)	16.7	18.1	18.3	16.1	13.0
8054131	Dyke House Comprehensive School	15.3	15.7	17.5	16.7	15.7
8054133	High Tunstall College of Science	17.3	17.1	19.2	15.0	17.9
8054134	Manor College of Technology	16.4	15.6	16.0	15.1	15.9
8054603	The English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College	15.5	15.6	15.5	15.6	14.8
Special						
8057026	Catcote School	5.9	6.0	5.3	6.7	7.4
8057027	Springwell School	7.1	5.4	5.8	4.9	5.0

[1] For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE).

[2] The within-school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

[3] There are no city technology colleges or academies in Hartlepool constituency.

Source:
School Census

Teachers: Retirement

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on raising the retirement age for secondary school teachers. [5640]

Mr Gibb: Under the provisions of the Teachers' Pension Scheme, the normal pension age (that is the age at which pension benefits can be accessed without any actuarial reduction) is 65 for those who joined the scheme on or after 1 January 2007; and 60 for those who were members of the scheme prior to that date. The point at which a teacher retires—which can be after or before the normal pension age—is, however, a matter for the individual to determine in discussion with their employer.

The Government have set up an Independent Commission under the Chairmanship of Lord Hutton to conduct a fundamental structural review of public service pension provision, to ensure these provisions are sustainable and affordable in the long-term. Any future changes that may be made to the provisions of the Teachers' Pension Scheme will be informed by the outcome of this review.

Teachers: Training

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress has been made on the Training and Development Agency for Schools' review of the qualified teacher status standards. [1386]

Mr Gibb: The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) review of Qualified Teacher Status standards was put on hold due to the general election.

We are currently undertaking a review of all of our policies and as soon as we are able to provide more information, we will, of course, make a formal announcement.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 1938 and *(b)* 1939, on the ContactPoint database, tabled on 8 June 2010. [6279]

Tim Loughton: I replied to the hon. Member's questions today.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 3825, on departmental public expenditure, tabled on 17 June 2010. [7941]

Tim Loughton: A response will be issued to the right hon. Member shortly.

Young People: Bradford

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his latest estimate is of the funding his Department will provide for Bradford's My place project, Culture Fusion over the lifetime of the project; and if he will make a statement. [6106]

Tim Loughton: The Bradford Myplace project was awarded a grant of £5,000,000 by BIG on behalf of the then Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in March 2009. The Department for Education (DFE) has not yet made a decision on the future of Myplace funding. However, the Government are committed to a full comprehensive spending review in the autumn and DFE Ministers are currently considering their spending priorities.

Young People: Unemployment

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effects on levels of *(a)* employment and *(b)* deprivation in (i) Birmingham Erdington constituency and (ii) the Birmingham local authority area of recent reductions in area-based grant allocations to local authorities, including allocations to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. [6917]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

Tackling the UK's record deficit is the Government's top priority, and we believe that it is right that local authorities make a contribution to the efficiency savings of £6.2 billion in 2010-11. We have adopted a fair approach to the reductions in grants and funding streams and have limited the amount councils lose. The impact on the area of reductions in grants this year will be for the local authority to decide. We have ensured that councils, including Birmingham, are able to deliver essential frontline services by making no changes to the £29 billion they receive through Formula Grant and by increasing flexibility for local spending decisions through removing restrictions on how they spend their money.

Youth Services: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what representations his Department has received from the National Lottery on grants to the My place project in Bristol for the purchase and refurbishment of a building; [4992]

(2) when he plans to decide on the approval of funding for the My place project in Bristol. [5055]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has not yet made a decision on My place funding. The Big Lottery Fund have therefore deferred their confirmation of in-principle My place grants until a decision is made. The Government are committed to a full comprehensive spending review in the autumn and Ministers will shortly be considering their spending priorities.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what guidance he plans to issue to the Boundary Commission on whether the whole of a local authority ward should fall within a single parliamentary constituency; and if he will make a statement. [7088]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24W, a Bill will be introduced before the summer recess to implement the coalition agreement commitment to make provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. The independent Boundary Commissions will draw those constituency boundaries. Detailed provisions will be included in the Bill and Parliament will have the opportunity to debate it in full.

Constituencies: Sheffield

Mr Betts: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister by what mechanism Sheffield constituencies will be drawn to ensure that all are within five per cent. of a target quota of registered electors without *(a)* crossing local authority ward boundaries and *(b)* first reviewing local authority ward boundaries. [7244]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24W, a Bill will be introduced before the summer recess to implement the coalition agreement commitment to make provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. The independent Boundary Commissions will draw those constituency boundaries. Detailed provisions will be included in the Bill and Parliament will have the opportunity to debate it in full.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when the Government plan to announce the launch of the UK-wide competition for towns to bid for city status as part of the national celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee; what the timescale will be for applications; how many towns will be awarded city status in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland; and what criteria will be used to determine the successful towns. [6303]

Mr Harper: An announcement will be made in due course which gives further details of the national competition for city status. It would be inappropriate to give further details at this stage in the planning process.

Elections: Registration

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he plans to take to seek to ensure 100% electoral registration; and if he will make a statement. [7026]

Mr Harper: The Government will be considering what steps can be taken to improve registration rates in the context of the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration in Great Britain.

The Electoral Commission Report, "The completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain", published in March 2010, reported that the registration rate in the United Kingdom was 91-92% (based on figures from 2000). The report also found that: "there was a decline in registration levels from the late 1990s to 2006. The same evidence base suggests that the registers have stabilised since 2006, although it is likely that the completeness of the registers has declined since the last national estimate in 2000."

The report also says the process of estimating registration rates is an "imprecise science" and says that "All current approaches to estimating the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers at a national level are imperfect", but that "The completeness of Great Britain's electoral registers remains broadly similar to the levels achieved in comparative countries."

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the total registered electorate in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland on 5 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of that electorate expected to vote in local elections held on that date. [7210]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such estimates.

Electoral Systems: Referendums

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to announce the proposed date for a referendum on the alternative vote; and if he will make a statement. [5984]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced to the House on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-25, the Government intend that the referendum will be held on 5 May 2011. Further details and legislation will follow in due course.

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether the result of a referendum on the alternative vote is to be binding under his proposals for such a referendum. [5985]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced to the House on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-25, the Government intend that the referendum will be held on 5 May 2011. Further details and legislation will follow in due course. As indicated in that statement, the Bill will make explicit provision for the boundary commissions to report on more equally sized constituencies and for the process to be completed by the end of 2013. In the event of a vote in favour of the alternative vote in the referendum, the 2015 general election will be held on the new electoral system and according to the new boundaries.

JUSTICE

Ammanford Magistrates Court

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the savings which will accrue to his Department as a result of the closure of Ammanford magistrates court. [6760]

Mr Djanogly: The 2009-10 operating cost of Ammanford magistrates court was £110,392. The closure of Ammanford court house would also remove the need for HMCS investment in backlog maintenance of around £45,000.

An initial impact assessment has been produced for the consultations on proposals for provision of court services across the HMCS estate. This can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations.htm

The impacts, costs and benefits of any court closures will be considered more fully during the consultation phase and a full impact assessment will be produced alongside the consultation responses.

I must stress that no decision has yet been taken to close Ammanford magistrates court and I encourage responses to the public consultation that is ongoing and which closes on 15 September.

Annual Reports

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies was of printing annual reports in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [7646]

Mr Djanogly: Annual reports and accounts, like all House of Commons papers, are produced and published according to long-established and sophisticated parliamentary procedures, with adherence to strict rules regarding the laying and subsequent publication of the completed document. The printing cost of the annual reports for MoJ HQ and its executive agencies are shown in the following table .

HM Treasury cancelled the mandatory round of full Spring Departmental Report publication for 2010. With an advertising and marketing freeze in place, the printing of the department's annual reports has been put on hold.

Total printing costs per year

	2007-08	2008-09	£ 2009-10
Ministry of Justice	7,925	7,430	0
Her Majesty's Court Service	5,492	11,253	0
Tribunals Service	7,320	7,985	0
Office of the Public Guardian	6,565	n/a	0
National Offender Management Service	9,835	8,129	0

n/a = not applicable, print in-house, not able to identify specific recharge

Ministry of Justice does not centrally collect information on the cost of all annual reports published by all non-departmental bodies and it could be given only at disproportionate cost. This would involve contacting a large number agencies associated with the department. Retrieving the data would involve searching their individual records.

Asbestos: Compensation

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to provide compensation for people who were exposed to asbestos and have developed asbestos-related diseases on the same basis as was planned by the previous administration. [7016]

Mr Djanogly: I can confirm that we will be proceeding with the implementation of the previously announced limited extra-statutory scheme to provide one-off payments of £5,000 to individuals who had begun, but not resolved, a legal claim for compensation for pleural plaques at the time of the House of Lords judgment. The detailed arrangements for the extra-statutory scheme, including details of the precise qualifying criteria, are still in the process of being finalised and we hope that the scheme will be in a position to start accepting claims as soon as possible.

Courts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the unused courtroom capacity in *(a)* Retford, *(b)* Worksop, *(c)* Mansfield and (d) Sheffield magistrates court was in 2009. [6611]

Mr Djanogly: The utilised and unutilised courtroom capacity at each of these courts is shown in the following table.

Courtroom capacity April 2009 to March 2010

	Utilised	Percentage Unutilised
Retford	29.5	70.5
Worksop	48.8	51.2
Mansfield	49.6	50.4
Sheffield	69.4	30.6

Note:

The working assumption is that a courtroom is available 25 hours per week (five hours per weekday). These data come from an internal management system, are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.

Courtroom utilisation is the time a courtroom is used, against the hours that a courtroom is available for use. Utilisation rates currently average 64% across the magistrates courts. The Government's aim is to increase utilisation of courtroom time to at least 80%.

Courts: Attendance

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average cost to HM Courts Service of each non-attendance at court by a *(a)* defendant and *(b)* witness. [6759]

Mr Djanogly: We have no estimate of the average cost to HM Courts Service of non-attendance of defendants and witnesses at court. Courts manage their business in order to minimise the impact of non attendance by defendants and witnesses.

Details of ineffective or cracked trials where defendants or witnesses do not attend are set out in the following table.

Non-attendance of defendants and witnesses in criminal trials recorded in the magistrates courts, January 2010 to March 2010, England and Wales

	Number/percentage
Number of recorded trials where the defendant is absent	1,750

Non-attendance of defendants and witnesses in criminal trials recorded in the magistrates courts, January 2010 to March 2010, England and Wales

	Number/percentage
Percentage of the trials listed where the defendant is absent	5
Number of recorded trials where the witness is absent	1,811
Percentage of the cases where the witness is absent	5
Total number of trials	47,587

Notes:
1. The figures correspond to trials only and exclude all non-attendance when trials did not occur.
2. The reasons for ineffective trial due to defendant being absent include the following reasons:
Defendant absent—did not proceed in absence (judicial discretion)
Defendant ill or otherwise unfit to proceed
Defendant not produced by PECS
Defendant absent—unable to proceed as defendant not notified of place and time of hearing
3. Witnesses are defined as both professional, police and other witnesses for both the defence and prosecution.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [6851]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) records indicate that it has a total of 2,090 occupations within properties in the United Kingdom. Of these 278 are in London. The MoJ estate includes ownership and use of (or shared use of) a range of buildings, including prisons, approved premises, probation offices (both administrative and operational), Crown, county and magistrates' courts.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Departmental Human Resources

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5103]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My Department spent £100.9 million in 2008-09 and £88.6 million in 2009-10 on human resources. The amount spent for the years 1997-2007 (prior to the establishment of the Ministry) could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3199]

Mr Blunt: There are no civil servants or special advisers in the Ministry of Justice entitled to the use of a car with a dedicated driver nor are any entitled to use a car from the ministerial car pool.

MoJ staff, including Ministers and the Department's two special advisers have access to the use of a taxi ordered through departmental taxi accounts or to a car ordered through the Government Car and Despatch Agency, both the taxi account and the car and despatch agency may be used only in exceptional circumstances which may include:

by the time you cease work either public transport is not available for your journey from work to home or it would not be reasonable to expect you to use public transport

heavy baggage has to be transported for work-related reasons.

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6555]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6450]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since the formation of the present administration, three Ministers in my Department have completed an 'Induction Workshop for New Ministers' run by the National School of Government. The National School of Government is funded through its core learning programme to deliver induction and other training to Ministers. There was no separate charge to my Department.

In addition, one Minister is currently completing a National School of Government 'Finance in Government Workshop', at a total cost to my Department of £1,000.

No other training has been provided for Ministers.

First Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* convicted of first offences and *(b)* given a custodial sentence of six months or less for a first offence in each year since 2005. [7537]

Mr Blunt: Figures for the total number of people who were convicted of their first offence (including indictable, triable-either-way and summary offences) and given a custodial sentence of six months or less for a first offence in each year since 2005 are presented in the following table.

Number of people convicted in England and Wales courts for their first offence and sentenced to immediate custody of six months or less for their first offence

	Number of people who were convicted for their first offences	*Number of people who were given a custodial sentence of six months or less for their first offence*
2005	102,439	3,310
2006	100,208	2,922
2007	98,065	3,054
2008	91,935	2,987

Other information on trends in sentencing can be found in "Sentencing Statistics 2008" which was published on 28 January 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large-scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Magistrates

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many hours magistrates sat in *(a)* Worksop and *(b)* Retford in each of the last 10 years. [6612]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Hours sat in the magistrates courts

	Criminal	*Civil*	*Other*	*Total*
2007-08				
Retford	767	72	0	839
Worksop	1,137	116	8	1,261
2008-09				
Retford	644.35	101.9	0	746.25
Worksop	1,054.4	133.2	0	118.76
2009-10				
Retford	599.71	131.7	0	731.41
Worksop	973.8	236.1	0	1,209.9

Note:
Court level data are not available centrally pre April 2007. These data come from an internal management system, are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.

Magistrates Courts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were heard at *(a)* Retford and *(b)* Worksop magistrates court in each of the last 10 years. [6614]

Mr Djanogly: Information on completed cases is only available centrally at local justice area level for the last three years only. Information on completed cases in the Worksop and Retford local justice area over the last three years is provided in the following table.

Period	*Civil and family*	*Criminal*	*Means inquiries*	*Grand total*
2007-08	264	5,942	1,084	7,290
2008-09	180	5,145	735	6,060
2009-10	202	4,229	272	4,703

Note:
The data exclude Right to Representation Orders. The data come from an internal management system, are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were adjourned on the day of the case being heard in *(a)* Retford and *(b)* Worksop magistrates court in 2009. [6613]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to provide information on the number of cases adjourned on the day of the case being heard. Information on the number of effective, ineffective and cracked trials at each of these courts in 2009-10 is shown in the following table.

Location	*Trials*	*Effective*	*Effective trial rate (percentage)*	*Cracked*	*Cracked trial rate (percentage)*	*Ineffective trials*	*Ineffective trial rate (percentage)*
Retford	94	31	33.0	39	41.5	24	25.5
Worksop	179	58	32.4	71	39.7	50	27.9

Notes:
1. A cracked trial is where on the trial date, the defendant offers acceptable pleas or the prosecution offers no evidence. An ineffective trial is where a trial cannot progress on the trial date due to an error or omission by one or more of the organisations or individuals involved. A further hearing or new trial date will be arranged.
2. These data come from an internal management system, are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on the travelling time of *(a)* magistrates, *(b)* police and *(c)* lawyers attending courts of the closure of Retford and Worksop magistrates courts. [6610]

Mr Djanogly: An initial impact assessment has been produced for the consultation on proposals for the provision of court services in the east midlands. The consultation paper and the initial impact assessment can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cp08-10.htm

The initial impact assessment states there may be a travel cost impact on users of magistrates and county courts and that fewer courts could increase journey times and costs for court users such as victims, witnesses, general public, businesses, solicitors, barristers, police and NOMS—both probation services and prisoner transfers. However, consolidation of the court estate both in terms of function as well as location could mean that some court users will make fewer trips to court, e.g. CPS officers and solicitors may have to travel to fewer courts, and so lessening the overall impact. Fewer courts may also reduce the need for duty solicitors, decreasing costs incurred by the Legal Services Commission.

The impacts, costs and benefits of court closures will be considered more fully during the consultation phase and a full impact assessment will be produced alongside the consultation responses.

Magistrates Courts: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases he estimates will be heard in magistrates courts in Nottinghamshire in each of the next three years. [6609]

Mr Djanogly: Public consultations on the delivery of courts services in England and Wales were announced on 23 June. These proposals include the closure of a number of magistrates and county courts, five of which are in the Nottinghamshire area. Decisions on case transfer will not be made until after the Lord Chancellor makes decisions on which of these courts ought to be closed and when. Such decisions will need to take into account court workload across all of the east midlands area. No estimate has therefore been made of the number of cases likely to be heard in magistrates courts in Nottinghamshire over the next three years.

Should any court be closed, a full implementation plan will be produced to ensure the smooth transfer of work.

Offenders: Deportation

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. [6602]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have held general discussions about the deportation of foreign national prisoners with the Home Secretary and other ministerial colleagues. I am keen to continue to develop with ministerial colleagues plans to reduce the burden of foreign national offenders in the criminal justice system.

Offensive Weapons: Prosecutions

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been prosecuted for carrying an offensive weapon or bladed article in Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [6845]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in the Kent police force area for possession of offensive weapons or having an article with a blade or point in a public place, 2004 to 2008 (latest available), is given in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in the Kent police force area for offences of possession of offensive weapons and having an article with a blade or point[1], 2004-08[2, 3]

	Number
2004	191
2005	189
2006	187
2007	161
2008	289

[1] Includes offences under the following statutes: Prevention of Crime Act 1953—section 1 Criminal Justice Act 1988—section 139(2) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996—section 4(1) Criminal Justice Act 1988—section 139 Criminal Justice Act 1988—section 139A(1) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996—section 4(1).

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Prisoners

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons currently imprisoned gave addresses in Bassetlaw constituency in court at the time of the trial for the offence for which they were convicted. [6608]

Mr Blunt: Information held on prisoners does not record home addresses provided on arrival or discharge from courts but does include an address provided on first reception in to prison.

As of 14 May 2010, based on this information there were 87 prisoners serving a custodial sentence and three prisoners who were convicted awaiting sentence that have an address in the Bassetlaw constituency area. These figures include both male and female prisoners and young offenders and juveniles.

Prisons

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse of a place in a prison at category (a) A, (b) B, (c) C and (d) D was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [6390]

Mr Blunt: The four categories A to D are security categories related to individual prisoners and prison costs are not analysed by these categories. Prison costs are classified by the main function of the prison which does not entirely correspond with the four security categories. The following table provides the following average costs per place for 2008-09 (the last year for which figures are available).

Total average cost per place

Category	*£*
Male dispersal	70,000
Male category B	38,000
Male category C	38,000

Total average cost per place

Category	*£*
Male local	50,000
Open	32,000
Semi open	37,000
Male closed YOI (15-21)	48,000
Male YOI Young people	58,000
Male open YOI	42,000
Female closed	52,000
Female local	53,000
Cluster	40,000

Note:
Figures to nearest £1,000

The average costs given above include expenditure on public and private prisons (as recorded in the National Offender Management Service Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included.

Cost per place is based on the Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) at the prisons in these functions.

Prisons: Population

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people he expects will be in prison in each of the next three years. [6607]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population in England and Wales, most recently in August 2009. These project the prison population under three different scenarios (high, medium and low), based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends. The projected populations in the next three years (at the end of June) are in the following table. Although the published prison population projections did not anticipate the change in March 2010, the figures provided here incorporate the impact of the ending of End of Custody Licence (ECL).

Projected prison population (end of June figures)

	High	*Medium*	*Low*
2011	89,800	88,100	86,100
2012	91,400	88,900	86,100
2013	92,300	88,800	85,200

Sentencing: Knives

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on compulsory prison sentences for convictions relating to knife crime; and if he will make a statement. [6598]

Mr Blunt: No such representations have been received. But we will be looking at sentencing for knife crime as part of the comprehensive assessment of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting re-offending.

Shoplifting

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of penalty notices for offences related to shoplifting. [7012]

Mr Blunt: We will be considering our approach to all out of court disposals, including fixed penalty notices for shoplifting, as part of the sentencing assessment.

Under our programme for government for the next five years, we will conduct a full assessment of sentencing policy to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, obtaining justice for victims and cutting reoffending.

Stop And Search: Ethnic Groups

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many stops and searches of individuals from each ethnic background, have been conducted in Walsall South constituency in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [7020]

Mr Blunt: Data are not available at constituency level. However, the accompanying tables show the number of Stop and Searches (section 1, 60 and 44) in 2008-09 for the West Midlands police force area. Statutory powers exist under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), for a police officer to search a person or vehicle without first making an arrest. Other police powers not under PACE include Stops and Searches in anticipation of violence (under section 60 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994) and searches of pedestrians, vehicles and occupants (under sections 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000).

Stop and Search of persons under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, and other legislation, by self defined ethnicity, 2008-09

	Ethnicity	*West Midlands*	*England and Wales*
White	White British	12,460	691,849
	White Irish	121	8,489
	Other White	284	64,933
Black or Black British	Black African	438	50,246
	Black Caribbean	2,504	75,721
	Other Black	665	42,799
Asian or Asian British	Bangladeshi	524	19,309
	Indian	1,566	22,888
	Pakistani	4,832	31,273

Stop and Search of persons under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, and other legislation, by self defined ethnicity, 2008-09

	Ethnicity	*West Midlands*	*England and Wales*
	Other Asian	524	26,509
Mixed	Mixed African	59	3,128
	Mixed Asian	160	3,203
	Mixed Caribbean	872	16,477
	Other Mixed	155	9,187
Chinese or other	Chinese	68	3,356
	Other	155	11,256
	Not Stated	2,285	62,060
	Total	27,672	1,342,763

Stop and Search of persons or vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, by self-defined ethnicity, 2008-09

	Ethnicity	*West Midlands*	*England and Wales*
White	White British	181	53,078
	White Irish	2	889
	Other White	13	9,684
Black or Black British	Black African	66	17,681
	Black Caribbean	160	19,099
	Other Black	32	10,647
Asian or Asian British	Bangladeshi	64	6,585
	Indian	74	3,455
	Pakistani	230	4,903
	Other Asian	37	6,353
Mixed	Mixed African	18	701
	Mixed Asian	4	406
	Mixed Caribbean	39	2,978
	Other Mixed	24	1,654
Chinese or other	Chinese	4	345
	Other	7	1,631
	Not Stated	56	9,866
	Total	1,031	149,955

Stop and Search of pedestrians and vehicles and occupants under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, by self-defined ethnicity, 2008-09

	Ethnicity	*West Midlands*	*England and Wales*
White	White British	0	73,206
	White Irish	0	2,201
	Other White	0	41,966
Black or Black British	Black African	0	10,151
	Black Caribbean	0	6,776
	Other Black	0	5,123
Asian or Asian British	Bangladeshi	0	5,247
	Indian	0	9,781
	Pakistani	0	5,604
	Other Asian	0	10,054

Stop and Search of pedestrians and vehicles and occupants under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, by self-defined ethnicity, 2008-09

	Ethnicity	*West Midlands*	*England and Wales*
Mixed	Mixed African	0	526
	Mixed Asian	0	811
	Mixed Caribbean	0	960
	Other Mixed	0	2,210
Chinese or other	Chinese	0	3,141
	Other	0	5,590
	Not Stated	0	13,571
	Total	0	197,008

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Criminal Justice Reform Analytical Services (CJR—AS)

Surcharges

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the beneficiaries have been of the victim surcharge since it was introduced. [6654]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows how funding was committed from Victim Surcharge receipts each year from 2007-08 to 2009-10. Any shortfall has been met from savings in other areas of the Ministry of Justice.

Recipient	*Department*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	£ *2009-10*
Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Services	Ministry of Justice	3 million	2.6 million	2.6 million
Witness Care Units	Crown Prosecution Service	3 million	2.6 million	2.6 million
Victim Support Plus	Ministry of Justice	5.7 million	7 million	6.2 million
Victims Fund[1]	Ministry of Justice and the Home Office	[2]1.75 million	[3]1.75 million	[4]1,770474
Grand total	—	13.45 million	13.95 million	13,170,474

[1] The Victims Fund provides funding for voluntary organisations supporting victims of sexual violence, murder/manslaughter and hate crime. For 2009-10 this was combined with £1 million funding from the Government Equalities Office. The fund is allocated annually via competitive tender.
[2] £1.25 million Sexual violence, £250,000 Hate Crime and £250,000 Homicide.
[3] £1.25 million Sexual violence, £250,000 Hate Crime and £250,000 Homicide.
[4] £1.25 million Sexual violence, £250,000 Hate Crime and £270,474 Homicide.

Trespass

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward plans to create a new criminal offence of intentional trespass to enable people occupying property without the landowner's permission to be removed without the need for a court order. [6862]

Mr Blunt: The Government are considering how the law might be strengthened, not least around intentional trespass but, as yet, no firm decisions have been made. Any change to the law in this area would need to be considered against other commitments in the coalition agreement, and we would need to investigate fully the public service resource implications of any change, taking account of the current financial situation.

CABINET OFFICE

Bowel Cancer

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged between 50 and 59 years were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each year since 2001. [7103]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people aged between 50 and 59 years were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each year since 2001. [7103]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer in England for persons aged between 50 and 59 years, in each year from 2001 to 2007.

Table 1 Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer[1], persons aged between 50 and 59 years, England[2], 2001 to 2007[3]

	Number
2001	3,334
2002	3,297
2003	3,273
2004	3,393
2005	3,539
2006	3,485

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer[1], persons aged between 50 and 59 years, England[2], 2001 to 2007[3]

	Number
2007	3,321

[1] Bowel cancer is another name for colorectal cancer. Both are coded as C18-C20 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.
[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7352]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the expenditure of his Department on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6123]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Directors

Mr Carswell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the implications for departmental accountability to select committees of the House of the introduction of non-executive directors to the enhanced boards of Government departments. [6409]

Mr Maude: The appointment of non-executive directors does not affect the established lines of accountability to Parliament. Ministers remain accountable to Parliament for the decisions and actions of their Departments. Permanent secretaries continue to have a personal responsibility to the Public Accounts Committee for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which he or she is responsible.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what changes the Government's lead non-executive director plans to make to the enhanced role of non-executive directors on departmental boards; and on what statutory basis. [6412]

Mr Maude: The role of non-executive directors on departmental boards is set out in the enhanced departmental boards protocol, which has been published on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100630-browne/protocol.aspx

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. There is no statutory basis for this role.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5914]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office employs 3.4 FTE staff to ensure compliance with all relevant equality legislation, provide advice on employment policy and promote equality and diversity across the civil service and within the Department. Of this, a small central team of 2.6 FTE staff are responsible for working with other Government Departments to promote diversity and equality in employment in the civil service; 0.8 FTE staff are responsible for diversity and equality issues within the Cabinet Office.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7333]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7603]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7478]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7994]

Mr Maude: Details of expenditure in 2010-11 will only be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2011 summer recess.

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6568]

Mr Maude: There are no plans in place to relocate Cabinet Office staff to Bassetlaw.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7370]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7584]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what factors determine the allocation of questions for written answer to each Minister in his Department. [6356]

Mr Maude: The List of Ministerial Responsibilities published on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 47WS. sets out the responsibilities of Ministers within the Cabinet Office.

Electoral Register

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to encourage *(a)* young people and *(b)* people from black and minority ethnic groups to enrol on the electoral register. [7099]

Mr Harper: Under Section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, Electoral Registration Officers have a duty to maintain a register of parliamentary electors and a register of local government electors. They also have a duty to encourage participation by electors in the democratic process and to target under-registered groups in their local authority area.

The Electoral Commission promotes public awareness of registration and produces research and reports on electoral registration issues. The commission ran a campaign before the general election which was targeted at under-registered groups including:

Young people aged 16-24
Recent home movers
People living in privately rented accommodation
Certain black and minority ethnic groups
Students.

The Government are considering what further steps could be taken to boost registration rates in the context of the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration in Great Britain.

Intestacy

Mr Knight: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in what percentage of deaths the deceased died intestate in each of the last three years. [6535]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

Figures are not kept on the number of people who die with or without leaving a will in England and Wales. However, figures are published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the number of deaths registered each year in England and Wales and by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the number of grants of representation issued each year in the estates of deceased persons where there is no will. A grant is the court's authority issued to the deceased's personal representatives to administer the estate. All those covered by the MoJ figures have died intestate, but there may be more people who have died intestate but no grant of representation is issued. The figures are set out in the following table.

	Death registered in England and Wales (Mortality statistics: Deaths registered for 2007 and 2008. Figures for 2009 provided by ONS)	*Grants issued where there is no will (Judicial and Courts Statistics for 2007 and 2008. Figures for 2009 as before)*	*Intestate estates (minimum) (percentage)*
2007	504,052	76,693	15
2008	509,090	52,510	10
2009	491,348	42,696	9

OGC Buying Solutions: Official Hospitality

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what costs OGC Buying Solutions incurred in *(a)* sponsoring the procurement covered at the Local Government Chronicle Awards 2010, *(b)* providing publicity for such sponsorship and *(c)* providing travel, accommodation or subsistence payments to persons attending the awards ceremony. [5958]

Mr Maude: This event was held under the last government. The costs incurred by Buying Solutions for sponsorship of the Local Government Chronicle Awards were £21,000; publicity was included in this overall cost.

Travel, accommodation and subsistence payments to persons attending the awards ceremony amounted to £722.69.

Buying Solutions is now subject to the same marketing and advertising freeze as the rest of Whitehall and no new sponsorship contracts will be signed this year.

Payment-by-Results

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to publish the terms of the Central Office of Information's consultation on payment-by-results; and if he will make a statement. [6337]

Mr Hurd: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 12 July 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question 6337 regarding the terms of the Central Office of Information's consultation on payment-by-results.

A copy of the terms of the consultation on payment-by-results will be published when it has been completed.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 July 2010

DEFENCE

3D Radar

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions since January 2008 officials of his Department have met representatives of the Norwegian company 3D Radar; and what the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* outcome was of each such meeting. [6993]

Peter Luff: Since January 2008 Ministry of Defence officials have met 3D Radar on the following dates:

24 June 2009
20 October 2009
1 December 2009
18 January 2010
6 May 2010
29 June 2010
30 June 2010

The meetings primarily outlined and clarified the requirement for Ground Penetrating Radar, discussed arrangements for the assessment trials and clarified project time scales. I am withholding details of the outcomes of the meetings as these are commercially sensitive.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies manufacture the *(a)* battlefield clothing and *(b)* boots worn by British troops serving in Afghanistan. [5368]

Peter Luff: The Department's relationship is with the prime contractor, who may choose to subcontract out some or all of the manufacturing work. The current prime contractors of battlefield clothing and combat boots used by British troops serving in Afghanistan are shown in the following table:

Type of battlefield clothing	*Prime contractor/supplier*
Standard battlefield clothing (known as Combat Soldier 95) and also socks	Cooneen Watts & Stone, Northern Ireland
Combat footwear	Iturri SA, Spain
Waterproof garments	Thistle Garments Ltd, Glasgow
Warm weather combat gloves	Burfield & Co Ltd, Somerset

Armed Forces: Meat

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the two year contract extension awarded by his Department to Purple Food Service Solutions includes a requirement for them to procure British bacon for the armed forces; what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the terms of the contract; and if he will make a statement. [5415]

Peter Luff: Under the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Food Supply contract the prime contractor, Purple Food Service Solutions, sources the majority of pig meat products from British suppliers, although bacon is currently sourced from other EU suppliers. This is because when the requirement was originally competed in accordance with EU and MOD procurement regulations British suppliers were unable to demonstrate sufficient value for money for supplying bacon.

While no specific discussions about the terms of the Food Supply contract have been held with officials from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), informal discussions about the sourcing of bacon from non-UK sources have taken place during regular and routine meetings held between MOD and other Government Departments, including DEFRA. These discussions are aimed at assisting British companies to better compete for MOD food contracts.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will require armed services personnel to receive a psychological assessment immediately prior to leaving the services. [7899]

Mr Robathan: All armed forces personnel receive a discharge medical assessment 90 days prior to discharge. This detailed examination is undertaken by a doctor and the results are recorded on the individual's F-Med-1 form. This form contains a specific assessment of the mental capacity and emotional stability of the individual. A reassessment is carried out seven days prior to discharge to confirm the record or reflect any further changes.

A summary of each individual's medical history while in the armed forces, including the results of the discharge medical, is recorded on an F-Med-133 form which is given to the individual to pass on to their civilian general practitioner (GP). The F-Med-133 also contains information on how the GP can gain access to the individual's complete service medical records if required.

The Government take mental health issues extremely seriously, and our Programme for Government makes clear that we will provide extra support for service and ex-service personnel. The Prime Minister has asked the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) to carry out a study into the health of both serving and ex-service personnel to see what more can be done to assess and meet these needs; a focus of this study will be mental health.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6112]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Offices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6565]

Mr Robathan: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the Spending Review.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7449]

Mr Robathan: Expenditure on official entertainment has been as follows:

	£ million
1997-98	5.0
1998-99	5.6
1999-2000	6.4
2000-01	8.5
2001-02	7.2
2002-03	7.3
2003-04	8.0
2004-05	6.5
2005-06	5.4
2006-07	4.3
2007-08	4.2
2008-09	4.3

These figures represent expenditure by the Department, the on-Vote Defence Agencies and those advisory non-departmental public bodies we sponsor.

The figures do not include expenditure by our Trading Funds as they lie outside the departmental accounting boundary.

We have published this information in our annual report and accounts since 2001-02. The 2009-10 figures for both administration and programme entertainment are intended for publication in the annual report and accounts due to be laid before the House on 21 July.

We use official entertainment to pursue British security policy interests, facilitate a wider public understanding of the armed forces, and enhance professional contacts within the UK and with other nations. Expenditure must be modest and necessary, and all entertainment must be authorised in advance and comply with departmental rules and the principles of propriety.

Departmental Postal Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on postage in 2009. [3340]

Peter Luff: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. As with all items of expenditure, what we spend on postage must be necessary, appropriate, cost effective and an admissible charge to public funds.

European Fighter Aircraft

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of the Typhoon Fighter programme on the UK's core military aerospace capability. [6669]

Peter Luff: The Strategic Defence and Security Review will define the future shape and role of the armed forces and the equipment that they will need. It would be inappropriate to single out Typhoon for further comment at this stage.

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the effects of maintaining a UK production line for the Typhoon Fighter on UK exports; and what account will be taken of this matter in the strategic defence and security review. [6670]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 367W. Sovereign industrial implications will be considered as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, and wider industrial issues will be considered in the subsequent review of the Defence Industrial Strategy.

National Defence Industries Council

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who attended the National Defence Industries Council meeting on 21 June 2010; and in what capacity each such person attended. [6493]

Peter Luff: The National Defence Industries Council (NDIC) is the most senior forum for consultation between the Government and industry on defence matters. The Government members are Ministers and senior officials from relevant Government Departments. The industry members of the NDIC are individuals from defence companies or trade association representatives nominated by the Defence Industries Council (DIC). More details about the DIC are available on its website at:

www.defencematters.co.uk

Present at the meeting on 21 June were:

Government members

Ministry of Defence	
Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP	Secretary of State for Defence; Co-Chairman of NDIC
Peter Luff MP	Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology
Gerald Howarth MP	Minister for International Security Strategy
Sir Bill Jeffrey	Permanent Under Secretary
Ursula Brennan	2nd Permanent Under Secretary
Vice Admiral Paul Lambert	Deputy Chief Defence Staff (Capability)
Tom McKane	Director General Strategy
Andrew Manley	Director General Defence Commercial
Dr Andrew Tyler	Chief Operating Officer, Defence Equipment and Support (representing Chief of Defence Materiel)
Dr Frances Saunders	Chief Executive DSTL
Susanna Mason	Director Corporate Commercial
Stephen French	Director International Acquisition Policy

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	
Mark Prisk MP	Minister for Business and Enterprise
Geoff Dart	Director Advanced Manufacturing Industries
HM Treasury	
James Quinault	Head of Defence Diplomacy and Intelligence
UK Trade and Investment	
Richard Paniguian	Head of UK Trade and Investment, Defence and Security Organisation
Trade Union	
Hugh Scullion	General Secretary Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions
Industry members	
Ian King	Chairman of DIC; Co-Chairman of NDIC
Victor Chavez	Vice President Defence and Security, Intellect trade association
Dr Sandy Wilson	Vice President Defence, Aerospace Defence Security trade association
Paul Lester	President of the Society of Maritime Industries
Alex Dorrian	Industrialist
Richard Martin	Industrialist (SME rep)
Dr David Price	Industrialist
Leo Quinn	Industrialist
Peter Rogers	Industrialist
Sir John Rose	Industrialist
Sir Kevin Tebbit	Industrialist
Andrew White	Industrialist
Rear Admiral (ret'd) Rees Ward	Secretary, Defence Industries Council

Also present at the meeting were other members of the NDIC secretariat, private secretaries, and other officials.

Shipbuilding: Contracts

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies have been awarded contracts and sub-contracts for construction of HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales; at which sites he expects work under each such contract; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [7937]

Peter Luff: Following the signing of the Queen Elizabeth (QE) Class Aircraft Carrier contract in July 2008, construction work is now under way at six UK shipyards: Appledore, Birkenhead, Govan, Portsmouth, Rosyth and Tyne.

Over 100 equipment sub-contracts, totalling some £1.25 billion, have been placed by the Aircraft Carrier Alliance to support the build of the QE Class. A detailed list of these sub-contracts will be placed in the Library of the House.

Shipbuilding: Manpower

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of people directly working on the construction of HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. [7950]

Peter Luff: It is anticipated that work on the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers will create or sustain a peak of 7,000 to 8,000 jobs at the Tier 1 shipyards in Glasgow, Rosyth, Portsmouth and Devon, with a further 2,000 to 3,000 in the supply chain across the UK. Construction and commissioning work is due to complete by the end of 2018.

Current employment figures can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Type 23 Frigates

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Type 23 frigates are equipped with 2087-equipped Sonar; and whether these ships are providing the capability formerly undertaken by the Nimrod MR.2. [6307]

Peter Luff: Six Type 23s are currently equipped with 2087 Sonar, and we plan to fit a further two with it by 2013.

Following the withdrawal from service of the Nimrod MR2, other assets, including the Type 23, are providing cover for some of its tasks.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Anaerobic Digesters

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what priorities she has set for research and development expenditure on encouraging the development of anaerobic digesters. [7257]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA and Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Ministers jointly chaired an anaerobic digestion round table on 6 July. They discussed with stakeholders what actions the Government need to take to realise the coalition commitment to an increase in anaerobic digestion, and how this can be achieved in a cost-effective way. A note of the meeting summarising the issues raised and potential actions will be circulated to interested parties shortly. DECC and DEFRA will be jointly drawing up an action plan over the summer, looking at the economic capacity for the anaerobic digestion industry and the steps to be taken by Government and industry to realise the increase.

Countryside Quality Counts

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future of the Countryside Quality Counts project; whether she plans to maintain the public availability of the Countryside Quality Counts results currently available on the Countryside Quality Counts website; and if she will make a statement. [7294]

Richard Benyon: Natural England is committed to continuing the Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) Project and plans to publish a third assessment of change in countryside quality in 2012. This will cover the period 2004-09.

Natural England has been exploring options for a related but improved project that better reflects the Government's needs. This has resulted in the development of the CQuEL (Character and Quality of England's Landscapes) Project.

In line with the coalition's policy to reduce the number of Government sponsored websites, the CQC website:

http://countryside-quality-counts.org.uk/

has been identified as a candidate for closure. However, Natural England has arranged for the site to be transferred to the National Archive.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what training has been provided for Ministers in her Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6430]

Richard Benyon: No training has been provided.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to organise a floods summit in 2010. [7918]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is planning to hold a floods summit in September.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will undertake a review of the effectiveness of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority; and if she will make a statement. [7013]

Mr Paice: DEFRA, in common with all Government Departments, is currently taking steps to review all of its arm's length bodies. This includes the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

Recycling

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of local authority recycling rates for *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial food waste in the latest period for which figures are available. [5532]

Richard Benyon: We have made no estimate of the local authority recycling rates for domestic and commercial food waste.

English local authorities do submit data to an online survey called WasteDataFlow, setting out the amount of food waste collected separately and in mixed food/garden waste for recycling.

The most recent quarter for which data are available is July to September 2009.

In this period, 40 authorities reported having collected a total of 19,590.21 tonnes of food waste in source-segregated (food waste only) collections from households.

In the same period, 44 authorities reported having collected a total of 134,874.67 tonnes of mixed food/garden waste from households. The bulk of this in most cases would be garden waste rather than food waste.

Where food waste is collected by local authorities from non-household sources (which would include any collected from commercial sources), seven authorities reported having collected 296.75 tonnes of food waste in total.

Source:
WasteDataFlow

Whales: Conservation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports she has received on the decision of the International Whaling Commission to hold part of the proceedings of its 62nd meeting in Morocco in private; and if she will make a statement. [7198]

Richard Benyon: I have not received any reports on the decision to hold part of the IWC proceedings of the 62nd meeting in private.

The UK generally opposes holding IWC proceedings in private. However, following the impasse that occurred on the discussion of the IWC reform in the open forum, on this occasion we reluctantly agreed to ensure all negotiating options were exhausted.

We would not wish this type of meeting adopted as a standard procedure in the future, but nonetheless, we ensured the EU maintained our strong pro-conservation stance throughout.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she expressed to her Japanese counterpart the Government's policy on the commercial fishing of dolphins and porpoises at the 62nd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Morocco in June 2010. [7199]

Richard Benyon: The UK opposes all forms of dolphin and porpoise drives and believe they cause unacceptable levels of suffering. At the recent annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in June, 2010 (IWC62) the UK urged members to support the conservation of small cetaceans.

The Japanese Government are in no doubt of the strength of feeling in the country about these hunts and the UK Government will continue to make their opposition to the hunting of small cetaceans known to Japan at every appropriate opportunity and argue that they undermine the credibility of the IWC as an effective organisation for the conservation of cetacean stocks worldwide.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5555]

David Mundell: The Ministerial Code sets out use of official cars. Paragraph 10.12 states that Ministers are permitted to use an official car for official business and for home to office journeys within a reasonable distance of London on the understanding that they would normally be carrying classified papers on which they would be working.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Local Government Services: VAT

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he has received on the effects of the proposed value added tax increase on public services in Scotland. [8355]

Michael Moore: The Budget was discussed in a recent HM Treasury and Scotland Office seminar, with participants from the public sector, as well as Scottish business organisations, financial services and academia. Other representations have been received on a range of Budget issues. The VAT rise is unavoidable if this Government are to tackle the inherited budget deficit, which is the largest in peacetime history. Failure to address the deficit could see higher interest rates and no real recovery.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Leader of the House which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Office and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Office. [7397]

Sir George Young: Ministerial speeches are drafted on a collaborative basis, which includes advice from civil servants and the Leader of the House of Commons' special adviser.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Educational Visits: Parliament

Priti Patel: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, answering for the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will take steps to increase the number of places available for educational visits by school parties to the Palace of Westminster; and if he will ensure that hon. Members elected at the most recent general election are able to arrange visits for schools in their constituencies in 2010. [6742]

Sir Stuart Bell: There are two routes commonly taken by school parties wishing to visit Parliament. They may either contact Parliament's Education Service directly to book onto its regular visit and workshop programme, or contact their constituency MP who can sponsor a tour organised through the Central Tours Office (CTO). Both services are heavily oversubscribed.

Member-sponsored tours take place when Parliament is sitting. The CTO opens booking for Member-sponsored tours six months in advance; the number of tours available is limited by the sitting times of both Houses. Currently, there is some availability in October, November and December 2010.

Education Service visits to Parliament are booked in advance on a term by term basis; schools book direct with the Education Service and are used to this practice. All available visits generally book up on the day they are released. Visits between April and July 2010 were booked in January 2010, and visits between September and December 2010 were booked in April 2010. There are currently over 16,000 young people with confirmed bookings for education visits in the remainder of 2010. The next booking date is 6 October 2010, when places on the visit programme between January and March 2011 will become available. The bookings line number is 0207 219 4496. Full details of the education visits programme and the booking process can be found on the Education Service website at:

www.parliament.uk/education

Unfortunately, with the accommodation currently available to the Education Service, it cannot meet the existing demand from schools, despite the substantial increase in capacity in recent years (up from 11,000 in 2005-06 to 40,000 in 2009-10). In the last Parliament, the House of Commons Administration Committee's report "Improving Facilities for Educational Visitors to Parliament" published in April 2007, recommended that a dedicated space for school visitors should be provided, and this is now in the Works programme. It is envisaged that the planned Education Centre would allow an increase in the number of places available on education visits to 100,000 per year from 2013.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the expenditure of the Government Equalities Office on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since its creation. [6126]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office does not hold information split between holding and attending conferences. However the total spend since inception was as follows:

Financial year	*Conference expenditure (£000)*
2007-08[1]	220,167
2008-09	305,275
2009-10	414,423

[1] 12 October 2007 to 31 March 2008

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by the Government Equalities Office for this purpose. [5917]

Lynne Featherstone: The expenditure of the Government Equalities Office has fallen over the last three years from £83 million to £69 million. The detail is shown in the following table:

GEO costs	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Administration costs			
Staff costs	3,996	5,210	6,496
Other administration costs	1,212	2,701	2,863
Programme costs			
Staff costs	329	324	862
Programme expenditure	1,473	2,179	3,864
Grant in aid to NDPBs	77,047	59,264	55,049
Income	-1,041	-27	-124
Total	83,016	69,651	69,010

Note:
The Government Equalities Office grant to NDPBs includes an element related to Human Rights.

For 2010-11 the Government Equalities Office contributed £9 million to deficit reduction.

All of the Government Equalities Office staff is employed on promoting equality and diversity.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of travel she has undertaken in an official capacity in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* June 2010. [8235]

Lynne Featherstone: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Women and Equalities is also the Home Secretary. In her ministerial capacity as Minister for Women and Equalities, she did not incur any additional travel expenses.

Equal Pay

Caroline Flint: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she plans to bring forward proposals for secondary legislation to implement gender pay audits. [5923]

Lynne Featherstone: The coalition agreement makes clear the Government's commitment to promote equal pay and to take a range of measures to end discrimination in the workplace.

There is currently no power in law which could be used to impose full gender pay audits on employers by means of secondary legislation. Section 78 of the Equality Act 2010 contains a power to require employers to publish information relating to the pay of employees in order to show whether there are differences in the pay of male and female employees, with regard to factors that would have to be specified in the secondary legislation. But this power would not allow the imposition of full gender pay audits. In particular, it would not allow regulations to be made that require the prescribed information to be analysed to establish the causes of any pay gaps identified.

We are currently considering our next steps in respect of equal pay, and we will make an announcement in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Tottenham of 27 May 2010 on betting shops in Tottenham constituency. [6570]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have asked my Department to respond to correspondence within 48 hours and I apologise that this has not happened in this instance, due to an administrative error in my Department. A response was sent on 8 July 2010.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7602]

John Penrose: Prior to 2000, this Department's website site was developed in-house at no cost. In 2000 £81,134 was spent on redevelopment of a new website and a portion of this was for design, though exact figures are not available. Changes to the design in 2005 cost £31,104.54. In 2009-10 the site was redesigned as part of essential work to bring the structure and content up to date, improve accessibility and allow the use of social media feeds (which the previous site could not support). The total cost for design was £8,383.75.

Information on the amount spent on website designs by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7477]

John Penrose: In 1997 this Department spent £26,000 for the production of a new logo and to develop new documents and stationery.

In 2006 a brand refresh was needed to include comprehensive brand guidelines covering all marketing applications as well as document templates. The cost was £24,315.

Information on our agency and arm's length bodies' spend on logo designs is held by them, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report,* columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £88 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6832]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The majority of arm's length bodies had their budgets reduced by 3%. The £88 million of savings were made from the following institutions. Each body is responsible individually for determining from which of its internal budget headings to take the savings.

Institution	*Saving (£ million)*
British Museum	1.832
Natural History Museum	1.833
Imperial War Museum	0.964
National Gallery	0.912
National Maritime Museum	0.678
National Museums Liverpool	0.817
National Portrait Gallery	0.265
National Museum of Science and Industry	1.476
Tate	2.164
Victoria and Albert Museum	1.628
Wallace Collection	0.161
Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester	0.193
Sir John Soane's Museum	0.037
Horniman Museum	0.153
Geffrye Museum	0.055
Royal Armouries	0.319
British Library	3.976
Public Lending Right	0.230
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	0.408
Regional Funds (Renaissance)	1.455
Arts Council of England	18.968
The Royal Parks	0.639
English Heritage	4.241
Churches Conservation Trust	0.095
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	0.601
Royal Household	0.502
Sport England	4.254
UK Sport	1.705
UK Anti-Doping	0.193
Football Licensing Authority	0.038
VisitBritain	1.252
Gambling Commission	0.019
UK Film Council	1.303
S4C	2.000
Olympic Delivery Authority	27.000
Departmental Administration	1.647
Other Departmental reductions	3.987
Total	88.000

The Department itself is meeting its share of savings by reducing its administrative expenditure (mainly: travel and subsistence—including ministerial cars, consultancy, training, and publicity); elements of pay budget e.g. overtime; grants it makes to other institutions and programmes; and its own capital expenditure (mainly software upgrades).

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7144]

John Penrose: In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing the regulatory burdens on business, including the introduction of a one-in-one out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year. These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee.

As part of a wider review of employment law, the Department will also be reviewing laws within relevant policy areas to "ensure they maximise flexibility for both parties while protecting fairness and providing the competitive environment required for enterprise to thrive".

The Your Freedom website:

http://yourfreedom.hmg.gov.uk

launched by the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 July 2010, will also give members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal, in order to reduce the burden on business.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7301]

John Penrose: One civil servant is employed to write speeches for Ministers on departmental business.

EC Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6874]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A considered estimate of the cost to this Department from complying with EU regulations and obligations could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gaming Machines

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of fixed odds betting terminals in operation in bookmakers. [7219]

John Penrose: The Gambling Commission's industry statistics for 2008-09 include a British Amusement Catering Trade Association (BACTA) estimate for the number of gaming machines available to the public as at 31 March 2009. For B2s, this was approximately 27,500.

A full breakdown of these statistics can be found on page 11 at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/pdf/Gambling%20Industry%20Statistics%202008%202009%20-%20update%20-%20October%202009.pdf

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 602W, on gambling, whether he discussed fixed odds betting terminals in High Street bookmakers when he met the Chair of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board on 3 June 2010. [7220]

John Penrose: A range of issues relating to the research, education and treatment of problem gambling in the UK were discussed at my meeting with Baroness Julia Neuberger.

There was no formal agenda for the meeting, but I can confirm that a variety of gambling activities, including Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs), were included within that general discussion.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the net proceeds from the disposal of the Tote he plans to return to horse racing organisations. [6835]

John Penrose: As I said in response to my hon. Friend's question on 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 603W, the Government are currently considering a range of options for the future of the Tote with the aim of securing value for the taxpayer while recognising the support the Tote currently provides the racing industry.

Given the sensitive nature of the discussions I am afraid I cannot add any more to those comments at this stage, but the Government will announce how they intend to proceed as soon as possible.

Olympic Games 2012: Folk Culture

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether proposals will be invited for the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2012 Olympics to include items featuring Britain's traditional folk culture; and if he will make a statement. [7659]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is working hard to scope the ambition of the ceremonies, and will consider a range of options that reflect and celebrate our unique British values and culture.

Olympic Games 2012: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the likely legacy for the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley and its residents from the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement; [8219]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that cities and towns *(a)* outside London and *(b)* in the West Midlands will benefit from the London 2012 Olympics. [8221]

Hugh Robertson: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 games.

I have not made an assessment of the specific legacy for Dudley. However, the West Midlands stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. Some examples of how cities and towns outside London and, in particular the West Midlands, are benefitting from the games are given as follows.

Across the UK over 118,000 companies have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised) and over 1,100 contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers. Information on businesses in the West Midlands that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

The City of Coventry football stadium will be one of the key non-London venues, hosting football matches, and along with pre-games training camps will provide an opportunity to create further economic benefits, including inward investment, through the international attention that will follow. In the West Midlands there are 32 facilities that met the criteria to be world-class training venues for Olympic and Paralympic sport, which are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide. The guide has been produced in an online form and is accessible at:

http://trainingcamps.london2012.com

Over 620 cultural and sporting programmes across the UK have been awarded Inspire Marks, including 32 in the West Midlands. Over 13,000 schools/colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's education programme Get Set, including 1,115 schools/colleges in the West Midlands—41% of the total number in the region.

The West Midlands has also secured £2.2 million from the Legacy Trust to fund programmes in the region, bringing people together for community activities of all kinds.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

China: Human Rights

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the human rights situation in China. [4995]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have serious concerns about a wide range of human rights issues including the extensive use of the death penalty and detention without trial; the use of torture; the continuing harassment of political dissidents, religious practitioners and adherents of the Falun Gong movement; and severe restrictions on basic rights such as freedom of speech and association. The Government note that China has made good progress on economic and social rights in the last 30 years, bringing more people out of poverty than any country in history.

The Government attach high importance to human rights in China and would like to see much more rapid progress on civil and political rights, not least because that will help to sustain China's economic development. We encourage China to set a timetable for ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as soon as possible. We continue to raise human rights concerns as part of our dialogue with China.

Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the foreign bribery briefing document provided by his Department to outgoing commercial officers. [5609]

Mr Bellingham: Outgoing commercial officers receive training on dealing with bribery and corruption at Post. This is delivered by the Anti Corruption Unit in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and covers the current UK law, officers' obligations under the law, and sources of support and information available to them and to businesses.

In addition, all officers at our overseas Posts have access to an online anti-corruption toolkit. This offers a wide range of guidance on dealing with bribery and corruption while overseas. It includes sections on:

UK legislation relating to bribery and corruption,

how, when and to whom officers should report allegations or suspicions of bribery or corruption by UK businesses or individuals,

how to deal with allegations of corruption by UK officials,

encouraging reporting by members of UK companies or organisations overseas, and

advice to business.

The advice to business section includes guidance for officers on how to advise UK companies on managing the risks of overseas corruption, including best practice on key issues such as:

bribe solicitation, extortion and duress,

so-called 'facilitation payments',

gifts and hospitality,

third party partners, and

a list of additional resources companies can refer to on bribery and corruption issues.

A standard script for business is included in this section, giving details of sources of further support and guidance for businesses concerned about bribery and corruption issues as follows.

An annual e-gram on bribery and corruption is sent to all our Posts, for the attention of all officers, outlining the current UK law, officers' obligations under the law, and sources of support and information available to them and to businesses. This e-gram also forms part of the anti-corruption toolkit.

With the exception of the script for business, the toolkit and other documents mentioned have been designed for use by Foreign and Commonwealth and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) officers. It is not therefore appropriate to place them in the Library, but I would be happy to forward a copy to you for your personal information if you so wished.

Further information is available to both officers and businesses through the Overseas Security Information for Business service, hosted by the UKTI website. This provides UK business with country-specific information relating to the security related risks, including bribery and corruption risks, which companies face when operating overseas.

Script for Business

Foreign bribery is a business risk that needs to be actively managed, like fraud or embezzlement. Corruption adds up to 10% to the total cost of doing business globally, and up to 25% to the cost of procurement contracts in developing countries. Moving business from a country with low corruption levels to a country with medium or high corruption levels is found to add costs equivalent to a 20% tax on foreign business.

There are a lot of useful, free resources available to help businesses manage this risk. For example, as part of the Government's efforts to support business integrity, the UK is funding the Business Anti-Corruption Portal, which is of particular use to Small and Medium Enterprises[1], providing summaries of international studies and knowledge about particularly exposed markets, sectors and regions.

One of the first steps in managing the risk of bribery is for a company to implement a robust anti-bribery policy through training and disciplinary procedures. A clear and consistent message from the top is the essential core of successful anti-corruption policy, backed up by a robust internal audit programme. Recent enforcement action against UK companies has demonstrated that companies need to look beyond written corporate policy, to ensure effective implementation and monitoring.

There are a number of business guides for designing and implementing an anti-corruption policy, such as Transparency International's Business Principles[2] and the International Chamber of Commerce's Rules of Conduct[3]. A number of industry sectors have also developed sector specific guides; specialist codes of practice and transparent procurement agreements[4].

UK exporters and investors should also ensure that their management control systems meet international standards for anti-corruption. The Government encourages UK businesses to follow the voluntary OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises[5], which includes specific anti-corruption guidelines. Companies should also consider additional due diligence when engaging foreign agents or operating in weak governance zones[6].

The Government is aware that petty corruption and bribe solicitation remain a problem for UK exporters and overseas investors. The best defence against bribe solicitation and demands for 'facilitation payments' is good preparation and participation in local integrity pacts or other anti-corruption initiatives. There is also a growing body of specialised anti-corruption risk management for these problems, including international initiatives such as RESIST[7] (Resisting Extortion and Solicitation in International Transactions).

[1] http://www.business-anti-corruption.com/about-this-portal/?pageid=46

[2] http://www.transparency.org/global_priorities/private_sector/business_principles

[3] http://www.iccwbo.org/policy/anticorruption/id870/index.html

[4] http://www.giaccentre.org/

http://eiti.org/

http://www.sbac.co.uk/pages/83675783.asp

http://www.anticorruptionforum.org.uk/acf/pages/acf.php

[5] http://www.berr.gov.uk/policies/business-sectors/low-carbon-business-opportunities/sustainable-development/corporate-responsibility/uk-ncp-oecd-guidelines

[6] http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/26/21/36885821.pdf

[7] http://www.unglobalcompact.org/issues/transparency_anticorruption/Anti-Corruption_Guidance_Material.html

Counter-terrorism: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much funding he expects to be allocated to his Department's counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation programmes in Pakistan in financial year 2010-11; [5598]

(2) what percentage of his Department's counter-terrorism and counter-radicalisation programmes is projected to be spent in Yemen in 2010-11; [5599]

(3) what percentage of Counter-Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme funding is planned to be spent in *(a)* Pakistan, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* Saudi Arabia and *(d)* East Africa in 2010-11. [5695]

Alistair Burt: Due to the sensitive nature of counter-terrorism projects, we cannot provide details of the exact amounts allocated to projects in specific countries under the Counter-Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme.

Departmental Catering

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on catering in each year from 1997 to 2009. [4857]

Alistair Burt: We cannot separate out catering costs from wider official hospitality expenses without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated Ministerial car to travel between his Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5548]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 8 June, *Official Report*, column 100W. Ministers prefer to walk. Sometimes lack of time, or the need to take large files, means they have to travel by car. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many of his Department's contracts with its suppliers are under review as a result of the recently announced reductions in public expenditure; and what the monetary value is of all such contracts which are under review; [3640]

(2) how many officials in his Department are working on renegotiating contracts for the supply of goods and services to the Department as a result of recently announced reductions in public spending; what savings are expected to accrue to his Department from such renegotiations; how much expenditure his Department will incur on such renegotiations; and when such renegotiations will be completed. [3662]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) operates a policy of continually reviewing its contracts, taking the opportunity to renegotiate contracts in accordance with EU directives, achieving efficiency savings where possible.

This current review of FCO contracts is being led by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), now part of the Cabinet Office, on behalf of central Government.

At this time the FCO, like other central Government Departments, is taking the lead from OGC as to the suppliers and contracts that may be subject to review and renegotiation. We are unclear at present as to which FCO contracts may be affected by this programme of renegotiation, so accordingly cannot identify the expected savings or the expenditure the Department will incur.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £55 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6826]

Alistair Burt: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones) on 7 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-4W and the written ministerial statement issued by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-8WS.

Israel: Borders

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on relaxing the restrictions on border crossings with the Gaza Strip. [8343]

Alistair Burt: We are in regular contact and dialogue with the Israeli Government, on a number of matters related to the middle east peace process—this includes the current humanitarian situation in Gaza.

We have made clear that the situation in Gaza is a tragedy and unsustainable. Together with the EU and Quartet, we have called on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality. I therefore welcomed Israel's decision to move from a list of 120 permitted goods to a list of specific prohibited items.

It is now imperative that all parties work together urgently to deliver real change on the ground.

Overseas Aid: Terrorism

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent from his Department's overseas counter-terrorism budget for 2010-11. [8155]

Mr Hague: The budget for the Counter-Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme for 2010-11 has been set at £38 million. Breaking down this budget further could reveal our capabilities and details of the security and intelligence agencies spending. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal these details. All expenditure is kept under rigorous scrutiny to ensure value for money and effectiveness and is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Pakistan: Terrorism

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much he expects to be spent from the Counter-Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme budget in Pakistan in 2010-11. [8154]

Mr Hague: Due to the sensitive nature of counter-terrorism projects, we cannot provide details of the exact amounts allocated to projects in specific countries under the Counter-Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Israel on the three British citizens arrested on board the Gaza Freedom Flotilla who were returned to the UK without their passports. [6714]

Alistair Burt: I raised this issue with Israel's ambassador to the UK. Our ambassador to Israel and other members of our embassy in Tel Aviv also raised the matter on a number of occasions with the Israeli authorities. It has also been raised by the EU presidency, on behalf of EU heads of mission, with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I can confirm we have received all three missing passports which are being returned to the holders.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to secure the return of the property confiscated from British citizens on board the Gaza Freedom Flotilla by the Israeli authorities. [6787]

Alistair Burt: We have raised these specific issues with Israel's ambassador to the UK. Our ambassador to Israel and other members of our embassy in Tel Aviv have also raised the matter on a number of occasions with the Israeli authorities. It has also been raised by the EU presidency, on behalf of EU heads of mission, with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We, and the EU, have been informed by the Israelis that, with the exception of electronic and media equipment, the personal belongings have now been sent to Turkey, to the organisers of the Flotilla, Insan Hak ve Hürriyetleri ve Insani Yardim Vakfi—The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH). We understand that the Turkish authorities agree this to be correct. We have been informed by the Israeli authorities that the return of electronic and media equipment is under consideration by the Israeli defence forces. We will continue to press for its return and availability for use in the inquiry, as required by those conducting it.

Although we are not legally obliged to pursue either legal action, or to seek the return of a British national's property, nor is it part of our consular assistance policy to do so, exceptionally in this case, we have asked our consular staff in Istanbul to follow up with IHH who still hold over 300 pieces of unclaimed luggage, including watches, phones and cameras. Our consular staff have taken photographs of everything that was seen in IHH's storage, which we will shortly be distributing to the British nationals involved so they can attempt to identify any property that is theirs.

Terrorism

David Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what budget has been set for his Department's overseas counter-terrorism programme in 2010-11. [8153]

Mr Hague: I refer to the answer the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) gave the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 312W.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Luton

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract for the Luton Dunstable busway project; [7687]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 5-6W, on bus services: Luton, whether the contract for the Luton Dunstable busway project contained a cancellation clause. [7688]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The Department for Transport has not seen and does not hold a copy of the contract between Luton borough council and BAM Nuttall in respect of the Luton Dunstable Busway project. I suggest that the hon. Member contacts the council to obtain a copy.

Chesterton Railway Station

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies his Department has undertaken of Chesterton station to decide whether it should be included in the High Level Output Specification for Control Period 5. [7781]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The Department for Transport has worked with Cambridgeshire county council and Network Rail to assess the scheme for a possible station at Chesterton. The county council are considering funding options. No decisions have yet been made over the Control Period 5 High Level Output Specification, which covers the five-year period from April 2014 to March 2019.

Cycling

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the access to roads for *(a)* cyclists and *(b)* the public during competitive cycling races. [7888]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport has had no discussions with ministerial colleagues on the access to roads for cyclists and the public during competitive cycling races.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which projects his Department has funded for improvements to the Dartford crossing since 2000; and what the total cost was of each project on the latest date for which figures are available. [6346]

Mike Penning: The following table sets out Highways Agency improvements projects from April 2003 to September 2009. They include all expenditure including technology renewals, but exclude maintenance and renewals activities. Details of improvements before April 2003 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Project description	*Expenditure (£)*
Toll Booth Protection Scheme	1,755,066
Minor Safety and Improvement Projects (2003 to 2007)	1,385,254
Queen Elizabeth II Bridge Pylon Protection Improvements	740,775
Layout of the North-Bound Entry to the East Tunnel as a Contingency for a Tunnel Closure	439,702
Automatic Fire Suppression and Detection Improvements (East and West Tunnels)	366,181
Installation of Speed Detection Equipment and Cameras (Queen Elizabeth II Bridge)	322,997
Traffic Officer Control Room Upgrade	267,982
Motorway Incident Detection and Automatic Signage Installation (Junction 2 to 30)	227,651
Information Technology Developments for Dart-Tag and Toll Booths	218,159
European Union Tunnel Safety Directive works	167,515
National Motorway Communications System and Variable Messaging System Upgrade	142,391
Motorway Incident Detection and Automatic Signage (Junction 30 to Plaza)	117,272
Information Points, Board and Sign Installation	109,976
Close Circuit Television Replacement	95,966
National Motorway Communications System Upgrade	82,770
A282 Express Lane Improvement Scheme	60,403
Improvements from Junction 1A to Queen Elizabeth II Bridge Accident Cluster	56,636
Motorway Incident Detection and Automatic Signage (MIDAS) Installation	53,791
Road Accident Safety Improvements (Queen Elizabeth II Bridge Approach)	52,371
Additional CCTV Cameras	47,618
Network Referencing System and Installation (Signage and Marker Posts in Tunnels)	39,458
National Motorways Communications Link Installation	34,427
Signing Improvements for Dangerous Loads	31,061
Road Accident Safety Improvements (Junction 1A)	22,066
Roadside Safety Restraints	15,375
Road Accident Safety Improvements (Queen Elizabeth II Bridge and Approach)	13,389
Emergency Turnaround Points	10,379
Other Minor Safety Initiatives	985

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of levying tolls in one direction only in order to increase capacity at the Dartford crossing. [6345]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency are committed to improving the levels of service experienced by the millions of users of the Dartford crossing.

Previous studies recommended further investigation of measures to provide short and longer-term improvements to the performance of the crossing:

through better traffic management, better design of the tolling plaza and newer tolling technologies.

the possibility of one-way tolling.

the case for the provision of additional crossing capacity in the longer-term.

However, we will need to be clear of the potential benefits and impacts such proposals will bring, and will want to understand the potential implementation costs.

My priority when considering of the options for improvements to the Dartford crossing is the investigation of the use of newer charging technology to allow the introduction of free-flow charging, where I have asked for further advice from officials on the costs, possible funding sources and benefits of options for the use of such technologies.

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8289]

Norman Baker: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Ministers in his Department have used an allocated ministerial car to travel between the Department and the House of Commons on each day since 21 May 2010. [5556]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 2 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 6W. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8318]

Mike Penning: Departments are unable to estimate the mileage travelled by each Minister in a Government car in May and June 2010 because this information is not recorded.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report,* columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £683 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6833]

Mr Philip Hammond: My Department will find £683 million of savings through:

a £309 million reduction in specific grants to local authorities;

a proposed £108 million reduction in the Department's grant to Transport for London, on which I am consulting with the Mayor of London;

Network Rail will reduce spend by £100 million; and

a further £112 million of savings in my Department's direct expenditure, including consultancy, research, travel and subsistence, IT, marketing and communications, training, agency staff, and office consumables.

While these efficiencies have taken my Department a long way to the total amount, the deferral of £54 million that would have been spent on lower priority schemes has also been necessary. This includes not going forward in 2010-11 with planned spend on some rail rolling stock schemes that have not already been contractualised. It also includes postponement of highways improvements on the A453, A23 and M6 junctions 5-8.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6434]

Norman Baker: The Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), attended an Induction Workshop for new Ministers, run by the National School of Government (NSG). This is part of the NSG's core training and was provided at no additional cost to the Department.

No other Ministers have attended any formal training courses.

Freight: Southampton

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the annual *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* contribution to the economy of freight to and from the Port of Southampton. [7833]

Mike Penning: None. The Department for Transport does not publish or collate statistics for individual ports in this form. However, figures for traffic through Southampton, which confirm its major importance for the economy, are available in table 3.8.44 of 'Maritime Statistics'. Provisional statistics for 2009 are also available. These show that in 2009 Southampton was the fifth largest port in the UK in terms of traffic handled. See web references:

www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221658/223721/4082361/maritimestatistics2008.pdf

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/maritime/ports/provportstats2009

Highways Agency: Telephone Services

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many call handlers are employed to operate the Highways Agency Information Line; and how many calls the line has received in the last 12 months. [5752]

Mike Penning: 19 advisers (call handlers) cover 6 am to 10 pm seven days a week. Overnight calls are answered by national incident liaison officers as part of their other duties.

177,212 calls were received in the 12 month period ending 31 May 2010 and 38,281 e-mails were received and handled.

M6

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the M54 to M6 toll road link; and if he will make a statement. [5861]

Mike Penning: The Government have made clear their most urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record budget deficit in order to restore confidence in the economy and support the economy.

Ministers are therefore reviewing all Department for Transport projects and programmes as part of the spending review to ensure they represent good value for money and are consistent with the Government's objectives. I am unable to comment further on specific schemes until the spending review has been concluded.

Motorways: Litter

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government plan to take to reduce litter on motorways; and if he will make a statement. [5753]

Mike Penning: The responsibility for clearance of highway litter and the sweeping of carriageways is governed by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Highways Agency is responsible for litter collections on motorways in England and these are undertaken by the Agency's service providers, who are required under their contracts to meet the standards set out in the Act.

The Agency is continuing to work to identify ways to reduce litter on motorways. It is focused on delivering reliable levels of service while optimising value for money. Areas which are being considered include collaborative working with local authorities and other key stakeholders, and improving interaction with customers on litter prevention, so that they are deterred from littering at all.

Network Rail: Correspondence

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department provides to Network Rail on responding to enquiries from hon. Members. [7842]

Mrs Villiers: As a company limited by guarantee, it is for Network Rail to decide how to respond to such requests. The Department for Transport does not currently provide guidance to Network Rail on this matter. However, the Government are committed to ensuring that the company is properly accountable to its customers, passengers and others with a legitimate interest in its operations.

Railways: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the alternative systems to the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) set out in the Review of the Intercity Express Programme, published on 7 July 2010 he plans to consider before the publication of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review; and what criteria other than value for money he plans to use in assessing the merits of each system. [8176]

Mrs Villiers: We will reassess the Intercity Express Programme and consider possible alternatives, such as refurbishment of existing rolling stock and the various different approaches recommended for investigation within Sir Andrew Foster's review of the programme. In accordance with Sir Andrew's recommendations, the Department for Transport will also engage more closely with industry.

All options will be appraised in line with standard value for money and affordability criteria.

Railways: Liverpool

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected completion date is for the electrification of the rail network between Liverpool and Leeds; and if he will make a statement. [7674]

Mrs Villiers: The previous Government announced that the railway line between Liverpool and Manchester, via Newton-le-Willows, would be electrified by the end of 2013. There are no plans currently in place to electrify the line onwards to Leeds.

The Government support rail electrification as it helps to reduce carbon emissions and cut running costs. However, as part of the spending review process Ministers are considering the full range of transport policy to ascertain what is affordable.

Railways: Wessex

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the Wessex rail route to reach capacity. [7631]

Mrs Villiers: The Wessex rail route is operated by Network Rail and they make assessments of likely future use by train operators. Their 2010 Wessex Route Plan forecasts continuing growth in demand and puts forward measures to improve the effective use of capacity, but does not identify when the route will reach capacity. The Government are committed to long-term infrastructure investment which supports sustainable economic growth.

Road Traffic Control

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* road humps and *(b)* other traffic calming measures as a means of reducing road traffic accidents; and if he will make a statement. [5588]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has in the past carried out extensive road safety research covering a wide range of topics, including the development and evaluation of road humps and other traffic calming measures designed to reduce vehicle speeds and road accidents.

"Local Transport Note 1/07: Traffic Calming" summarises this research, including that into the effectiveness of road humps and traffic calming measures on accidents. It is available from the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/ltnotes/

Research has shown that reductions in speed will deliver safety benefits (for example a review undertaken for the Department)

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme4/20mphzoneresearch.pdf

This research shows that the most reliable way of achieving lower traffic speeds in urban areas is through engineering, using approaches such as traffic calming or greater enforcement.

Roads: Accidents

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of savings attributed to the prevention of road death and injury at monitored speed camera sites in each year since 2007. [4187]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has not made any estimate of the value of savings attributed to the prevention of road death and injury at specific speed camera sites. However, the Department's guidance does recommend that speed and collision data are collected by road safety partnerships and the contribution cameras make to casualty reduction monitored and reviewed, at least annually.

The Department has estimated that the camera sites included in the former national safety camera programme have together been saving approximately £400 million per year of casualty and accident costs since 2007. This estimate is based on the findings of the 'National Safety Camera Programme: Four Year Evaluation Report' (PA Consulting and University College London, December 2005), with some assumptions about how casualty savings have reduced since, for example due to reductions in casualty levels for other reasons. It includes savings at both speed and red light camera sites.

The Department's latest estimates of the annual cost to the UK economy of road accidents are published in Reported Road Casualties Great Britain (RRCGB): 2008 Annual Report, on page 28, table 2c. Copies of the report have been deposited in the House Library and are also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/

Roads: Doncaster

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of not proceeding with *(a)* planned improvements to White Rose Way in Doncaster and *(b)* the Feningley and Rossington Route Regeneration Scheme to Doncaster. [5429]

Norman Baker: We have not made any decisions about which local authority major schemes will be supported and will not be in a position to do so until after the spending review. Consequently no such assessment has been made.

Speed Limits: Fines

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of increasing the penalties applied to speeding offences. [4982]

Mike Penning: No assessment has been made about the merits of changing the penalty system for speeding. However, the Department keeps all its policies under review and will be considering a number of options to improve road safety. Any change to the penalty system for speeding would be subject to public consultation.

Speed Limits: Urban Areas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish *(a)* a record of each meeting he has held with other Ministers in his Department and *(b)* each submission he has received from (i) other Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department on speed limits in urban areas. [6285]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have regular scheduled weekly meetings with my ministerial team as well as ad hoc discussions when required. In line with paragraph 2.1 of the Ministerial Code I am not prepared to publish records of these meetings or internal discussions and submissions.

DFT Ministers have had several meetings and received a number of submissions on speed policy.

Transport: Capital Investment

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of his Department's capital projects is being reviewed in 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [6672]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 7W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of offences related to anti-Semitic violence in (A) Southend, (B) Essex, (C) the Metropolitan Police area of London and (D) England and Wales in the last 12 months. [7072]

James Brokenshire: This information is not collected centrally. The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. These data include information on the age of the defendant, their gender, the police force area and court where proceedings took place as well as the specific offence and statute for the offence. Other than where specified in the statute, information held centrally does not include the details of the victim.

Asylum

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of claimants for asylum advised by Refugee and Migrant Justice before it went into administration; and what assessment her Department has made of the effects of that administration on the *(a)* time taken to complete claims and *(b)* costs to the public purse of processing the claims of those persons . [8152]

Damian Green: In each case where the UK Border Agency is notified by an individual applicant's legal representative of their details, these are recorded on our caseworking database. UK Border Agency internal management information shows that, at the beginning of July, Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) were on the database representing more than 10,000 asylum applicants, of which fewer than half are recorded as being active cases. We are waiting to be advised of RMJ's final estimates of numbers of clients by the Legal Services Commission as RMJ's administrators manage the transfer of cases to other representatives.

The UK Border Agency, with the Legal Services Commission, is working to ensure prompt access to alternative legal representation for all applicants as well as to ensure that the impact of what has happened to RMJ, in terms of both cost and effect on individual cases, is minimised.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds have been provided to Maxim Bakiyev following his application for asylum in the UK. [7039]

Damian Green: It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual cases.

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the time taken to publish COMPASS programme contract notices relating to the commissioning of services for asylum seekers. [8266]

Damian Green: The original timetable for the COMPASS programme was to publish the invitation to tender for new asylum accommodation services in the summer of 2010.

Given the recent change of Government and the size of the contracts involved it has been agreed to delay the issue of the formal tender document until new ministers have had the opportunity to review the current plans and the strategy, to ensure best value.

Asylum: Children

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to publish its response to the consultation on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. [8268]

Damian Green: The Government last issued a consultation paper regarding unaccompanied asylum seeking children in February 2007: 'Planning Better Outcomes and Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children'. A formal response was published in January 2008 entitled 'Better Outcomes: The Way Forward—Improving the Care of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children'.

Although not pursuing a formal consultation, the UK Border Agency is in regular and frequent discussion with its partners on improvements to policy and process around dealing with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. For example, a number of children's charities and refugee groups have recently been asked to review proposed amendments to the Processing an Asylum Application from a Child instruction to reflect changes in policy to remove some unaccompanied children to their country of origin where adequate reception arrangements are in place. In circumstances like this, comments and recommendations from partners will be factored into the revised instruction rather than being the subject of a formal response to consultation.

Asylum: Detainees

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what alternatives to the detention of families whose asylum applications have been rejected her Department is considering. [8265]

Damian Green: I recently announced a review into the detention of children for asylum purposes so it can be brought to an end. The terms of reference of the review included a requirement to consider how the detention of children for immigration purposes will be ended and how a new family removals model can be established which protects the welfare of children and ensures the return of those who have no right to be in the UK. This will involve options based on keeping families with children in the community and these are now being considered in draft form by the Departments concerned and by me.

Asylum: Housing

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to assess the market for new providers of asylum accommodation services for the purposes of achieving greater flexibility and value for money. [8267]

Damian Green: The current contracts which provide asylum accommodation services are due to expire during 2011. A programme to address the replacement of these services was initiated in July 2009. The programme has carried out a full and detailed analysis of the accommodation market, which has included 40 face to face meetings with prospective suppliers. This will help identify the potential for creating commercial solutions that will allow UKBA to achieve greater flexibility and value for money.

Asylum: Tamils

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Tamils have been granted *(a)* asylum and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain in the last five years. [6618]

Damian Green: UKBA does not hold information by ethnicity. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

British Nationality: War Crimes

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which types of offence were taken into consideration in the decision to refuse UK citizenship to persons on the grounds of involvement in war crimes in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [8138]

Damian Green: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 144W.

Deportation: EC Nationals

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EEA nationals from each country were *(a)* removed and *(b)* advised to leave the country because (i) they did not possess (A) a valid identity card and (B) a passport card on (ii) they were a cause of an unreasonable burden on the social assistance system in the latest period for which figures are available. [7036]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* No EEA nationals have been removed or advised to leave the UK for not possessing a valid identity card or passport, or for being an unreasonable burden on the social assistance system.

DNA: Databases

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of DNA matches made with the national DNA database since 4 December 2008 in respect of individuals whose DNA profiles would have been removed from the database under the provisions of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of S and Marper. [7053]

James Brokenshire: The judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of S and Marper did not specify a particular retention period for the DNA profiles of those arrested but not convicted of criminal offences.

Therefore, it is not possible to make the estimate requested.

Entry Clearances

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 850-2W, on entry clearance, what the equivalent figures are for *(a)* November and *(b)* December 2009. [7768]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The requested information is provided in the following table:

	(a) Tier one (general)		*(b) Tier one (post study)*		*(d) Tier two (ICT)*		*(f) Tier four (General)*		*(f) Tier four (Child)*		*(g) Tier five youth mobility*	
2009	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*
November	2,168	572	2,893	379	537	2,010	10,548	153	94	13,454	—	1,420
December	2,196	536	2,449	314	517	2,018	11,287	294	61	20,734	—	998

Key:
IC = In-country grants of leave to remain.
OOC = Out-of-country visas issued.

The table above is based on approved main applications only. These data are not provided under National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Hunting Act 2004

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that offences under the Hunting Act 2004 are recorded correctly under the National Standard for Incident Reporting. [7413]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* Offences under the Hunting Act 2004 are non-notifiable which means they are not required to be reported to the Home Office. Hunting is not a separate category within the national standard for incident reporting (NSIR). However the offences would be included under the 'Wildlife' category of the NSIR counting rules. The rules contain the following definition for the wildlife category:

A report of an incident that involves wildlife. This category is designed to capture incidents and offences that fall short of notifiable crime.

Identity Cards

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity cards have been provided to people employed at *(a)* Manchester Airport other than direct employees of Manchester Airport Group, *(b)* London City Airport other than direct employees of London City Airport Group, *(c)* her Department other than its direct employees and *(d)* other Government departments other than their direct employees. [6737]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* Information held on the NIR does not include the individual's occupation or the details of their employer.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to *(a)* fully reimburse and *(b)* partly reimburse people who have purchased identity cards. [6817]

Damian Green: None. The coalition Government are committed to scrapping the ID card scheme and the National Identity Register. We aim to achieve that at the least possible cost to the taxpayer. Those few people who bought an ID card did so voluntarily and were warned that the scheme may be scrapped. In these circumstances, it is not right that the taxpayer should pick up the bill.

Illegal Immigrants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of persons in the United Kingdom illegally resident in *(a)* Weaver Vale constituency, *(b)* Cheshire, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [6991]

Damian Green: It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of illegal immigrants in the UK as some will deliberately evade immigration control to enter and stay in the country illegally.

The wider immigration programme, contained in 'The Coalition: our programme for government', published on 20 May, includes a commitment to support e-Borders and reintroduce entry and exit checks.

Immigration: Chernobyl

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of immigration rules have been committed by people entering the UK under the Chernobyl Children's Project in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [7798]

Damian Green: Records are not held on the number of breaches of immigration rules committed by people entering the UK under the Chernobyl Children's Project. Such information would only be possible by detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Maxim Bakiyev

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the status is of Maxim Bakiyev under UK law; [6652]

(2) what discussions she had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the granting of leave to remain in the UK to Maxim Bakiyev. [6653]

Damian Green: It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual cases.

Work Permits

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued in 2009; and how much revenue her Department obtained as a result. [6904]

Damian Green *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* In 2009, there were 9,985 work permits issued and the revenue generated was £883,300.

The work permit scheme closed for new applications in November 2008 and was replaced by Tiers 2 and 5 of the Points Based System. Under these Tiers, licensed sponsors issue Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) not work permits. Sponsors pay UKBA a fee for each CoS they issue. In 2009, sponsors issued 54,630 Certificates of Sponsorship under Tier 2 and the total revenue was £11,429,100.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison: Children

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will encourage the use of *(a)* restorative justice and *(b)* psychological support programmes as an alternative to the imprisonment of children. [7228]

Mr Blunt: The Government are conducting a comprehensive assessment of sentencing policy with a view to introducing more effective sentencing and rehabilitation policies which will include youth sentencing. We intend to bring forward proposals on sentencing and the rehabilitation of offenders in the autumn. We expect these to include proposals to increase the use of restorative justice in both adult and youth sentencing policy.

Ammanford Magistrates Court

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has made an estimate of the number of people who will be resident 15 or more miles away from their nearest magistrates court as a result of the closure of the Ammanford and Llandovery magistrates courts. [6762]

Mr Djanogly: The impact of court closures on travelling distances and travelling time to courts will be evaluated fully during the consultation phase and the findings included in the full impact assessment that will be produced alongside the consultation responses.

I must stress that no decision has yet been taken to close Ammanford or Llandovery magistrates courts and I encourage responses to the public consultation that is ongoing and which closes on 15 September.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases Ammanford magistrates court has heard since 2005. [6761]

Mr Djanogly: Ammanford magistrates court is located within the Dinefwr local justice area (LJA) and is the only court within the LJA currently hearing cases. Data on the number of completed cases in the Dinefwr LJA in the last three years are provided in the following table.

	Civil and family	*Criminal*	*Means enquiries*	*Grand total*
2007-08	24	1520	8	1552
2008-09	35	1412	0	1447
2009-10	36	956	5	997

The other court in the Dinefwr LJA is Llandovery magistrates court, which is owned by the local authority and being used as a library. The formal closure of Llandovery is also being consulted on as part of the consultations on the provision of court services.

I must stress that no decision has yet been taken to close Ammanford magistrates court and I encourage responses to the public consultation that is ongoing and which closes on 15 September.

Note:

The data are not centrally available at LJA level before April 2007 and exclude Right to Representation Orders. The data come from an internal management system, are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running costs were for Ammanford magistrates court in each of the last three years. [6763]

Mr Djanogly: The operating costs for Ammanford magistrates court in each of the last three years is provided in the following table.

Period	*Operating cost (£)*
2007-08	47,227.59
2008-09	36,095.53
2009-10	110,391.69

I must stress that no decision has yet been taken to close Ammanford magistrates court and I encourage responses to the public consultation that is ongoing and which closes on 15 September.

Animal Welfare: Convictions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research on cautions and convictions for offences in relation *(a)* animal cruelty and *(b)* child abuse. [7196]

Mr Blunt: The administrative conviction data on animal cruelty offences and sexual offences against child victims are routinely collected and published as part of Ministry of Justice Criminal Statistics, however violent offences are not specified according to victim age. Further research is not currently planned on these topics.

Community Orders

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who received a custodial sentence of six months or less in the last 12 months were convicted of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* robbery, *(e)* theft and handling stolen goods, *(f)* fraud and forgery, *(g)* criminal damage, *(h)* drug offences, *(i)* motoring offences and *(j)* other offences; and how many people who received a community sentence in the last 12 months were convicted of each of those types of offence. [7540]

Mr Blunt: The available information is in the following table. The most recent 12 months for which data are available is 2008, data for 2009 will become available when 'Sentencing Statistics 2009' is published later in the year.

Community sentences and immediate custodial sentences of six months or less for all offences, by offence type, 2008

	Custodial sentences	*Community sentences*	*Total sentenced*
Violence against the person	4,742	15,610	41,442
Sexual offences	285	1,370	5,140

Community sentences and immediate custodial sentences of six months or less for ail offences, by offence type, 2008

	Custodial sentences	*Community sentences*	*Total sentenced*
Burglary	3,563	9,401	23,651
Robbery	317	2,832	8,495
Theft and handling stolen goods	18,515	40,785	110,348
Fraud and forgery	2,149	5,772	19,924
Criminal damage	564	4,194	9,574
Drug offences	1,781	12,272	52,911
Other (excluding motoring) indictable offences	5,207	9,315	39,802
Indictable motoring offences	493	1,231	4,613
Total indictable offences	37,616	102,782	315,900
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	14,083	65,687	493,943
Summary motoring offences	6,377	21,702	552,221
All offences	58,076	190,171	1,362,064

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

2. These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

3. Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Court Utilisation Rate

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the court utilisation rate was for *(a)* Beverley, *(b)* Bridlington, *(c)* Hull and *(d)* Goole in each of the last five years. [8175]

Mr Djanogly: The courtroom utilisation rates for the last three years are provided in the following table. The information is not available centrally before April 2007. Courtroom utilisation is the time a courtroom is used, against the hours that a courtroom is available for use. Utilisation rates currently average 64% across the magistrates courts. The Government's aim is to increase courtroom utilisation in the magistrates courts to at least 80%.

Percentage

	Beverley	*Bridlington*	*Hull*	*Goole*
2007-08	43.2	53.5	65.3	31.7
2008-09	41	52.5	64.7	31.8
2009-10	43.1	45.8	63.2	31.5

The data come from an internal management system, are subject to our minimal levels of quality assurance and are based on the data currently available.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £325 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6825]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The £325 million of additional MoJ savings can be broken down into the following headings:

Heading	*Description*	*Saving (£ million)*
Discretionary Spend	Further reducing spending in areas such as consultancy, travel, events and postage.	55
Change and ICT	Reviewing change programmes and ICT spend to ensure that only essential projects are taken forward.	72
Recruitment	Further tightening recruitment to all but the most essential operational posts.	46
Capital	Stopping capital projects, selling property assets and delivering the administrative estate and meeting prison capacity requirements more efficiently. This includes £25 million from stopping the project to build a dedicated juvenile prison on the Glen Parva site, and £37 million from deferring the new Birmingham magistrates court.	152

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6883]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The scope of this question can potentially include a variety of compliance obligations—ranging from compliance with general employment law and environmental regulations to costs arising from negotiating, implementing, and day to day administration of instruments within the Department's own policy remit.

Work to comply with EU legislation is, in the main, conducted among all the other routine functions of my Department and it is not possible to disaggregate specifically all those costs associated directly with compliance with EU legislation. Where specific significant compliance costs from any EU legislation are anticipated for my Department or any other party affected by it then estimates of those are presented within an Impact Assessment and published on the Department's website. The Impact Assessments that accompany Explanatory Memoranda for Parliament are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Magistrates Courts

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has undertaken research into any link between the location of magistrates courts and defendants and witnesses not attending hearings. [6758]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has not carried out any such research. In 2004 the National Audit Office published a report: "Facing Justice—Tackling defendants' non-attendance at court" on the issues surrounding defendant non attendance.

Magistrates Courts: Bradford

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an estimate of the effects on the *(a)* cost and *(b)* duration of journeys between

Keighley police station and court of the merging of Bradford magistrates court and Bingley magistrates court. [7796]

Mr Djanogly: An initial impact assessment has been produced for the consultations. The impacts, costs and benefits of the proposed court closures and bench mergers will be considered more fully during the consultation phase and a full impact assessment will be produced alongside the consultation responses.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will hold discussions with Nottinghamshire police on the opportunity cost in police time of closing Worksop and Retford magistrates court. [7892]

Mr Djanogly: The regional director for Her Majesty's Courts Service in the Midlands wrote to Nottinghamshire police on 23 June to inform them of the consultation proposals and extended an invitation to meet with him to discuss them. No meeting has yet taken place.

Magistrates Courts: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the average annual rate of non-attendance by *(a)* defendants and *(b)* witnesses in criminal cases in each magistrates court in Yorkshire and the Humber. [6757]

Mr Djanogly: In the first quarter of 2010, there were 4,436 criminal trials recorded in the magistrates courts in the Humber and Yorkshire area. Of which 3% of recorded trials were ineffective or cracked due to non-attendance of defendants and 5% of recorded trials in were ineffective or cracked due to non-attendance of witnesses.

Table 1 as follows, shows the rate of ineffective or cracked trials due to non-attendance for defendants and witnesses in recorded criminal trials by each magistrate court in Yorkshire and the Humber, in the first quarter of 2010.

In November 2009, an estimated 12% of expected witnesses did not attend the magistrates courts hearings in Yorkshire and the Humber. This information is based on the witness monitoring survey, which is conducted on a biannual basis, over a two week period in June and November of each year. Estimates of non-attendance of witnesses for all criminal cases is not available at magistrate court level.

Table 1. Non-attendance of defendants and witnesses in Criminal trials recorded in the magistrates courts, January 2010 to March 2010— The Humber and Yorkshire

HMCS	*Number of recorded trials where the defendant is absent*	*Percentage of the trials listed where the defendant is absent*	*Number of recorded trails where the witness is absent*	*Percentage of the cases where the witness is absent*	*Total number of trials*
The Humber and Yorkshire	129	3	201	5	4,436
Humberside					
Beverley	2	5	1	2	42
Bridlington	0	0	1	4	26
Goole	0	0	0	0	23
Grimsby	4	3	1	1	138
Hull and Holderness	3	2	7	3	232
Scunthorpe	3	3	7	7	99
North Yorkshire					
Harrogate	0	0	1	2	60
Northallerton	1	2	1	2	56
Scarborough	1	2	2	3	66
Selby	0	0	1	2	65
Skipton	0	0	2	8	26
York	1	1	2	2	102
South Yorkshire					
Barnsley	3	2	3	2	173
Doncaster	8	3	11	4	273
Rotherham	5	2	4	2	231
Sheffield	17	3	17	3	495
West Yorkshire					
Bingley	9	4	8	3	236
Bradford	9	2	29	8	382
Batley and Dewsbury	1	1	10	8	126
Calderdale	9	3	11	4	309
Huddersfield	9	5	8	5	166
Leeds	32	21	63	8	781
Pontefract	7	4	7	5	149

Table 1. Non-attendance of defendants and witnesses in Criminal trials recorded in the magistrates courts, January 2010 to March 2010—The Humber and Yorkshire

HMCS	*Number of recorded trials where the defendant is absent*	*Percentage of the trials listed where the defendant is absent*	*Number of recorded trails where the witness is absent*	*Percentage of the cases where the witness is absent*	*Total number of trials*
Wakefield	5	3	4	2	180

Notes:

(1) The figures correspond to trials only and exclude all non-attendance when trials did not occur.

(2) The reasons for ineffective trial due to defendant being absent include the following reasons:

(a) Defendant absent—did not proceed in absence (judicial discretion)

(b) Defendant ill or otherwise unfit to proceed

(c) Defendant not produced by PECS

(d) Defendant absent—unable to proceed as Defendant not notified of place and time of hearing

(3) Witnesses is defined as both professional, police and other witnesses for both the defence and prosecution

Source:

Trials, HM courts service Performance Database (OPT)

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the geographical catchment area is of each magistrates court in Yorkshire and the Humber. [6810]

Mr Djanogly: Magistrates courts have a national jurisdiction, but the guiding principle is that cases are heard at a magistrates court for the local justice area in which (i) the offence is alleged to have been committed or where the subject of complaint originated or (ii) the person charged with the offence resides or where the person subject of the complaint resides or has their principal place of business. Local justice areas were established by order made by the Lord Chancellor under section 8 of the Courts Act 2003.

On 23 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-16WS, the Government announced proposals to modernise and improve the use of courts in England and Wales including proposals in respect of Humber and Yorkshire. The consultation which includes proposals for changes to some local justice areas will close on 15 September 2010.

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his latest estimate is of the average annual number of *(a)* criminal cases, *(b)* individual hearings in criminal cases and *(c)* non-criminal cases handled by each magistrates court in Yorkshire and the Humber. [6756]

Mr Djanogly: In the first quarter of 2010, there were 69,219 completed court proceedings in the magistrates courts in Yorkshire and the Humber. Of these cases 46,297 proceeding were criminal cases and 22,929 were non-criminal cases dealt with by the magistrates courts.

In March 2010, on average there was an estimated 2.01 hearings for defendants dealt with in Yorkshire and the Humber magistrates courts in criminal proceedings, excluding defendants committed or sent for trial at the Crown court.

Table 1 provides the number of criminal and non-criminal proceedings handled by each magistrates court in Yorkshire and the Humber, in the first quarter of 2010.

Table 1: Completed proceedings, Yorkshire and the Humber, Q1 2010

Magistrates courts	*Criminal proceedings*	*Percentage of the criminal proceedings*	*Non-criminal proceedings[1]*	*Percentage of the non-criminal proceedings*	*Total number of completed proceedings*
Humber and Yorkshire	46,297	67	22,922	33	69,219
Humberside					
Beverley	673	77	204	23	877
Bridlington	520	73	192	27	712
Goole	461	84	86	16	547
Grimsby	1,707	70	722	30	2,429
Hull and Holderness	3,351	62	2,088	38	5,439
Scunthorpe	1,525	75	507	25	2,032
North Yorkshire[2]					
Harrogate	810	63	475	37	1,285
Northallerton	971	76	311	24	1,282
Scarborough	1,064	63	622	37	1,686
Selby	421	77	129	23	550
Skipton	355	83	72	17	427
York	942	52	859	48	1,801
South Yorkshire[2]					
Barnsley	1,857	63	1,109	37	2,966
Doncaster	2,816	65	1,528	35	4,344
Rotherham	1,759	64	978	36	2,737
Sheffield	4,539	67	2,269	33	6,808
West Yorkshire[2]					
Bingley	1,136	68	544	32	1,680

Table 1: Completed proceedings, Yorkshire and the Humber, Q1 2010

Magistrates courts	*Criminal proceedings*	*Percentage of the criminal proceedings*	*Non-criminal proceedings*[1]	*Percentage of the non-criminal proceedings*	*Total number of completed proceedings*
Bradford	3,524	60	2,375	40	5,899
Batley and Dewsbury	1,695	70	732	30	2,427
Calderdale	2,622	74	905	26	3,527
Huddersfield	1,911	68	902	32	2,813
Leeds	7,268	65	3,860	35	11,128
Pontefract	1,974	73	715	27	2,689
Wakefield	2,396	76	738	24	3,134

[1] Non-criminal cases include civil and family, means inquiries, representation orders and special jurisdiction.

[2] Non-criminal cases exclude special jurisdiction.

Source:

Completed Proceedings, Business Information Division, HM Court Service performance Database ('OPT')

Table 2 provides the average number of hearings for defendants dealt for each magistrates court. Estimates of average number of hearings are based on the Time Interval Survey data for March 2010. The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value of the average number of hearings is likely to fall within a range defined as plus or minus the margin of error.

Table 2: Average number of hearings by court, Yorkshire and the Humber, March 2010

Magistrates court	*Estimated average number of hearings per defendant*	*Margin of error (-)+ number of hearings*[1]
Humber and Yorkshire	2.01	0.06
Humberside		
Beverley	1.30	0.29
Bridlington	1.65	0.45
Goole	2.43	0.79
Grimsby	2.40	0.40
Hull and Holderness	1.52	0.12
Scunthorpe	2.60	0.65
North Yorkshire		
Harrogate	1.81	0.22
Northallerton	1.96	0.53
Scarborough	2.16	0.49
Selby	1.92	0.84
Skipton	1.53	0.56
York	2.21	0.32
South Yorkshire		
Barnsley	1.99	0.27
Doncaster	1.85	0.24
Rotherham	1.78	0.18
Sheffield	1.82	0.16
West Yorkshire		
Bingley	3.72	1.12
Bradford	2.70	0.44
Batley and Dewsbury	2.09	0.36
Calderdale	1.80	0.26
Huddersfield	2.21	0.46
Leeds	2.20	0.16
Pontefract	1.78	0.22
Wakefield	2.16	0.29

[1] The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error.

Notes:

1. The Time Intervals Survey is run in March, June, September and December of each year.

2. All defendants include all adults and youths.

Source:

The time Interval Survey

Prisoners: Breach of Contract

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the prison population are *(a)* fathers and *(b)* mothers imprisoned for non-payment of child maintenance. [7882]

Mr Blunt: As at 31 May 2010 there were six males and no females in prison custody for non-payment of child maintenance. The total prison population was 85,018 at 31 May 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Rape: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 615W, on rape: Greater London, how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for offences related to (i) violence against the person, (ii) common assault, (iii) domestic violence and (iv) criminal damage there were in Greater London in each year since 2005. [7221]

Mr Blunt: The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. However, the Court Proceedings Database does not include the circumstances of each case or hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which proceedings are brought. It is not possible to separately identify domestic violence offences from other offences of assault and violence against the person.

Information on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in the Greater London police force area, for offences of violence against the person, common assault, and criminal damage, from 2005 to 2008 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in the Greater London police force area[1] for selected offences, from 2005-08[2, 3]

	2005		2006		2007		2008	
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Violence against the person	10,341	6,103	10,306	6,202	9,577	6,033	10,762	6,824
Common assault	7,175	4,086	8,589	5,140	8,321	5,351	8,921	5,948
Criminal damage	1,864	1,243	1,841	1,184	1,846	1,221	1,056	782
Total	19,380	11,432	20,736	12,526	19,744	12,605	20,739	13,554

[1] Includes the City of London and Metropolitan police force areas.

[2] The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7329]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is as follows.

			Cost (£)
	SFO[1]	*NFA*	*TSol*[2]
1997-98	500,412	—	—
1998-99	863,250	—	1,204,000
1999-2000	813,996	—	1,521,000
2000-01	1,416,051	—	1,554,000
2001-02	2,185,314	—	1,240,000
2002-03	2,624,741	—	2,004,000
2003-04	2,347,713	—	2,675,000
2004-05	2,781,058	—	2,617,000
2005-06	2,409,130	—	2,216,000
2006-07	1,966,464	—	2,897,000
2007-08	1,255,531	—	1,703,000
2008-09	2,814,558	30,780	2,174,000
2009-10	6,286,491	34,572	3,008,000

[1] The year 2009-2010 is significantly higher due to a tactical capital investment to reinvigorate the SFO's case management system.

[2] The data cover spend by the Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (from mid 2001 onwards). The figures prior to 1998-99 are not retained on the Department's accounting system, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The following tables show the amounts for spent by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO)—who merged with the CPS on 1 January 2010. The data are taken from the financial management system and are only available for 2003-04 onwards. RCPO expenditure for 2009-10 is included in the CPS totals for that year. The figures also include equipment purchased that has been capitalised.

CPS expenditure

	£ million
IT	
2003-04	29.739
2004-05	43.125
2005-06	50.305
2006-07	52.111
2007-08	52.479
2008-09	52.068
2009-10	49.130
Telephone services	
2003-04	5.342
2004-05	5.818
2005-06	6.479
2006-07	6.068
2007-08	6.759
2008-09	6.902
2009-10	6.669

RCPO expenditure

	£ million
IT	
2005-06	1.684
2006-07	2.310
2007-08	1.963
2008-09	3.606
2009-10	2.418
Telephone services	
2005-06	0.005
2006-07	0.029
2007-08	0.017
2008-09	0.088
2009-10	0.049

The 2009-10 figures are subject to audit.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7618]

The Attorney-General: The expenditure on light bulbs by the Law Officer's Departments is not recorded separately from other maintenance spending and this information could therefore be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7436]

The Attorney-General: Spending recorded under hospitality by the Law Officers Departments since 1997 is outlined in the following table:

£

Financial year	*Treasury Solicitors Department*[1]	*Serious Fraud Office*	*National Fraud Authority*[2]	*Crown Prosecution Service*[3]
1996-97	—	16,326	—	—
1997-98	—	14,650	—	—
1998-99	3,985	13,869	—	—
1999-2000	5,609	12,126	—	—
2000-01	5,593	18,984	—	—
2001-02	4,232	20,287	—	—
2002-03	6,107	18,385	—	—
2003-04	7,183	18,142	—	41,695
2004-05	13,271	31,452	—	16,780
2005-06	7,700	23,005	—	41,877
2006-07	10,168	42,210	—	24,946
2007-08	15,259	41,362	—	20,758
2008-09	9,659	36,968	4,000	33,353
2009-10	19,046	16,326	4,916	28,255

[1] TSol has financial responsibility for the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (from 2002). It is not possible to provide the information for the financial years 1996-97 and 1997-98 without incurring a disproportionate cost.

[2] The NFA came into operation in 2008.

[3] The CPS can provide financial data only from 2003-04 onwards. Expenditure information is taken from the CPS finance system and a comprehensive and full validation check of all transactions has not been undertaken.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on security in each year since 1997. [7366]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is detailed in the following table.

Cost (£)

	SFO	*CPS*[1]	*TSol*[2]
1997-98	148,835	—	—
1998-99	115,812	—	207,000
1999-2000	142,472	—	234,000
2000-01	120,890	—	281,000
2001-02	203,020	—	338,000
2002-03	130,948	—	303,000
2003-04	146,762	—	336,000
2004-05	122,429	—	337,000
2005-06	145,568	62,000	337,000
2006-07	151,298	70,000	188,000
2007-08	160,367	31,000	334,000
2008-09	164,774	118,000	251,000
2009-10	197,059	123,000	261,000

[1] The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not hold full central records of how much has been spent on security throughout the service for the years in question. The information sought could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. However, we are able to provide the costs of security systems for three CPS headquarters buildings and the security costs for the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO), who merged with CPS on the 1 January 2010.

[2] The figures prior to 1998-99 are not retained on the Department's accounting system, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The data provided also cover the Attorney-Generals' office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (from mid-2001).

The National Fraud Authority shared premises with HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate in 2008-09 and all security was provided by the Inspectorate.

The NFA currently collocates with the Serious Fraud Office in its office at Gray's Inn Road and all security is provided by the SFO as part of the sub-lease agreement.

Departmental Stationary

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7455]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Cost (£)

	NFA[1]	*SFO*	*CPS*[2]	*TSol*[3]
1997-98	—	59,928	—	n/a
1998-99	—	67,819	—	116,900
1999-2000	—	90,539	—	148,800
2000-01	—	83,237	—	149,900
2001-02	—	138,156	—	207,600
2002-03	—	121,995	—	215,700
2003-04	—	121,966	1,555,000	231,200
2004-05	—	137,338	1,917,000	275,000
2005-06	—	180,025	2,878,000	308,700
2006-07	—	177,346	2,750,000	299,300
2007-08	—	184,399	2,668,000	449,800
2008-09	2,383	216,732	2,733,000	343,100
2009-10	7,429	142,685	3,202,000	256,300

[1] The increase in cost in 2009-10 is relative to increased staff numbers during the same period and full year impact of NFA operations.

[2] The data figures from 05-06 include costs for the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO) who merged with the CPS on 1 January 2010. The data are taken from the Financial Management System and is only available for 2003-04 onwards. Data for earlier years could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The data for 2009-10 are subject to audit checks.

[3] The data also include the Attorney-General's office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (from mid 2001). The figures prior to 1998-99 are not retained on the Department's accounting system, and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Law Officers' Departments

Mr Anderson: To ask the Attorney-General which regulations of the Law Officers' Departments are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7137]

The Attorney-General: None.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish a table showing the cost per tonne of carbon emissions reduced by *(a)* cavity wall insulation, *(b)* technologies benefiting from feed-in tariffs and *(c)* technologies under consideration for the renewable heat incentive. [illegible]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The analysis that underpins various Government policies to reduce carbon emissions includes an assessment of carbon cost-effectiveness[1]. Carbon cost-effectiveness analysis provides an estimate of the net social cost per tonne of CO_2 reduction resulting from a policy.

In the last Administration's March strategy on household energy management it was estimated that cavity wall insulation has a carbon cost of £48/tCO_2 (it saves money rather than costs money). Further detail can be found in Annex 2 of the Initial Assessment of Impacts at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/saving_energy/hem/hem.aspx

For the recently introduced Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme, the estimated average carbon cost is in the region of £460/tCO_2, estimated over the period 2010-30. Further detail can be found on page 27 of the published Impact Assessment at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

However, as the impact assessment makes clear, there are benefits of the policy (such as community engagement) that are not monetised and are therefore not included in this figure.

The calculation of the "£/tCO_2" metric needs to be caveated because it relies on forecasts of the specific mix of low carbon energy (technology type and scale) that will be incentivised under FITs and on projected technology costs through time which in reality will be uncertain.

Similarly the projected carbon costs effectiveness of renewable heat measures published in the Renewable Heat Incentive Consultation Impact Assessment is estimated at £57/tCO_2 for measures installed in the traded sector and £75/tCO_2 for measures in the non-traded sector. These values represent average lifetime (2010-45) cost effectiveness across different range of measures and fossil displacement assumptions. Further detail can be found on page 20 of the published Impact Assessment at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/rhi/rhi.aspx

It should be noted that the estimated carbon cost effectiveness values are not directly comparable due to methodological differences in the underlying calculation. However the values do highlight the general ranking/impact of the different options.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the emissions factor applied to electricity under the Standard Assessment Procedure rating system for dwellings assumes a projected level of decarbonisation of five years hence. [6809]

Gregory Barker *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* New versions of the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) are published to support planned amendments to Part L of the Building Regulations (Conservation of fuel and power) for England and Wales. In 2006 the amendment to Part L was expected to last for five years. As SAP is frozen for the period the amendment is in force it was, therefore, necessary to set the carbon dioxide emission factor for electricity based on a projected level of decarbonisation for five years. Government's decarbonisation projections, based on an average value, were used for this purpose. The same procedure was used to determine the factor listed in SAP 2009.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to businesses of participation in the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme. [7158]

Gregory Barker: The final impact assessment on the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme published on 19 January 2010 by the previous Administration estimated the average annual cost for all participants to be £34 million. Separate estimations of the costs for business were published on a net present value basis and are set out in the impact assessment which can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/1_20100120102757_e_@@_crcconsia.pdf

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to bring forward proposals to extend the criteria for steps taken by businesses to improve their energy efficiency to be recognised under the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme. [7159]

Gregory Barker: We have no current plans to change the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme legislation enacted in the last Parliament. We are however keeping the operation of the scheme under active review to ensure that it incentivises energy efficiency improvements among participants and the level of regulation and incentives are proportionate.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the effects on numbers of jobs of participation by businesses in the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme. [7160]

Gregory Barker: There are no estimates of the effects of participation by businesses in the CRC scheme on numbers of jobs. However, by 2020 we estimate that the scheme will save participants around £1 billion per year through cost effective energy efficiency measures. This money could be used to sustain or create jobs but that will be a decision for participants. In addition the increased demand for energy efficiency advice and installation of equipment together with wider Government energy efficiency measures will stimulate opportunities the energy efficiency sector.

---

[1] Further detail on the use of the climate change policy cost-effectiveness indicator and methodology can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/analysts_group/cc_indicator/cc_indicator.aspx

Increasing the UK's energy efficiency and putting us on a low carbon path will improve UK competiveness, enabling organisations to prosper in a global market place.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the effects of the requirements of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme on small companies participating in that scheme. [7161]

Gregory Barker: The final impact assessment on the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme published on 19 January 2010 by the previous Administration contained a small firms impact test. The impact test concluded that, based on current energy prices, organisations with annual electricity bills below around £0.75 million were unlikely to meet the scheme's 6,000 MWh qualification threshold. As such, smaller organisations below this threshold are exempt from participation in the scheme.

There may be organisations with large energy bills and few employees which are subject the scheme. The impact assessment noted that these organisations are likely to benefit from participation in the scheme as they will save money on energy bills by implementing energy efficiency measures.

Energy Conservation: Housing

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of homes which would have to be retro-fitted with energy saving materials and equipment each year in order to meet the relevant targets set for 2050. [7045]

Gregory Barker: While no targets have been set for household energy saving for 2050, it is clear that we will need wholesale and radical changes to the energy performance of our housing stock in future. The new Green Deal initiative will help us achieve, or exceed, the binding targets for carbon reductions set during the previous Administration and will set us on the path for the long-term changes that are needed.

Under the Green Deal we will introduce a new finance package to make it as easy and attractive as possible for householders to lag their lofts, fill wall cavities, and take further steps to reduce their use of energy in the home. Households will be able to install not only the basic cavity and loft insulation measures, but go further to provide comprehensive packages for households that can deliver real energy, money and carbon savings.

In addition, the extension to the carbon emissions reduction target (CERT), which was announced recently and is expected to deliver insulation to 3.5 million households between April 2011 and December 2012, will ensure a rapid and significant increase in the rate at which we insulate homes over the next couple of years.

Energy: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 56W, on energy: subsidies, which official in his Department is responsible for global energy subsidy reform policy. [5992]

Gregory Barker: Work by the Department of Energy and Climate Change on global energy subsidies is led from within its International Energy Security team. The head of this team is Chris Barton.

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on subsidies for solar power production in each year since 1997. [6233]

Charles Hendry: The Department and its predecessors and its non-departmental public bodies have spent £102,528,791.00 on subsidies for solar power through the (i) Clear Skies (ii) Major PV Demonstration and (iii) Low Carbon Buildings programme (LCBP). The breakdown of this sum is shown in the following table:

£

	Clear Skies	*Major PV Demo programme*	*LCBP-1*	*LCBP-2*	*Total*
2002-03	—	4,340,584	—	—	4,340,584
2003-04	1,357,593	6,750,900	—	—	8,108,493
2004-5	2,130,115	5,757,572	—	—	7,887,687
2005-06	1,030,088	6,927,900	—	—	7,959,988
2006-07	178,000	2,365,624	2,477,093	n/a	5,020,717
2007-08	—	—	3,069,958	1,585,302	4,655,260
2008-09	—	—	3,154,183	8,271,911	11,426,094
2009-10	—	—	6,538,500	15,431,763	21,970,263
2010-11	—	—	3,394,003	27,765,702	31,159,705
Total	4,695,796	26,142,582	18,633,737	53,054,678	102,528,791

Natural Gas: Security

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work his Department has commissioned from consultants on the security of gas supply in the last three years. [8488]

Charles Hendry: I am today placing in the Libraries of the House copies of three reports for my Department by Pöyry Energy Consulting on aspects of security of gas supply. They concern:

> "GB Gas Security of Supply & Options for Improvement" (March 2010);
>
> "Security of Gas Supply: European Scenarios, Policy Drivers and Impact on GB" (June 2010);
>
> "Global Gas and LNG Markets & GB's Security of Supply" (June 2010).

These paint a broadly benign picture of the outlook for security of gas supply into Great Britain in the years ahead. In a central scenario, with falling gas demand in the UK and where central assumptions on gas supply and demand in the rest of the world are met, GB's gas market is robust to a wide range of shocks. Many such scenarios would not require voluntary gas supply interruptions or lead to gas supply shortages.

However, the outlook is not risk-free. The reports indicate the following conclusions:

> demand levels for gas are important: whereas the GB gas market is robust to a wide range of shocks provided that gas demand is falling over time (largely driven by the promotion of energy efficiency), in circumstances where UK or EU gas demand is higher than expected, the GB gas market becomes more vulnerable;

> while the risks of "voluntary" gas supply interruptions, and of gas supply shortages, are low, they are not negligible: there are potential scenarios, in the not-too-distant future, where voluntary interruptions would be required;
>
> even in those scenarios where gas supply is fully maintained, i.e. without voluntary gas supply interruptions or gas supply shortages, the wholesale gas price in the GB market could reach very high levels: Pöyry identify circumstances where the wholesale price could increase to 90 - 220 p/therm.

Ofgem's work on "Project Discovery" has also indicated that there are scenarios where the security of our gas supply could be severely tested.

It is important, in the interests of GB gas consumers, that, so far as feasible, these risks are managed. This reinforces the national need for additional gas supply infrastructure. There may also be a case for adjustment to the regulatory framework, to improve gas market operation.

The coalition agreement commits the Government to ensuring that our energy markets deliver security of supply. We shall take full account of the present reports in our current consideration of potential legislative measures for inclusion in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill.

The Minister of State for Communities and Local Government my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clarke) has announced the Government's policy on planning reform, including completion of the process for making the energy national policy statements—29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS. I shall take full account of the present reports, and of other evidence including consultation responses and the report on the draft National Policy Statements by the House of Commons Energy and Climate Change Committee, in preparing the Government's assessment of the national need for additional gas supply infrastructure.

Nuclear Power Installations

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review whether the provisions of the Nuclear Installations (Excepted Matter) Regulations 1978 remain relevant; and what his policy is on undertaking such reviews of regulations covering civil nuclear installations. [7736]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Installations (Excepted Matter) Regulations 1978 give effect to the exclusion of certain specified quantities and forms of nuclear substances (in particular, reprocessed uranium and small quantities of nuclear substances outside a nuclear installation) from the Paris convention on third party nuclear liability. The exclusions were adopted in 1977 by the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency Steering Committee under article 1(b) of the Paris convention in view of the small risks posed by the nuclear substances concerned.

Where changes are made in relation to the Paris convention my policy is to review the legislation giving effect to the convention. Significant changes to the Paris convention were agreed in 2004 and the exclusion for small quantities of nuclear substances outside a nuclear installation was updated in 2007. We are currently working on amendments to our legislation, in particular the Nuclear Installations Act 1965, to reflect these changes. We intend to consult on the proposed changes later this year.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to encourage the take-up of renewable heating systems. [7119]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to an ambitious agenda on renewable heat. Analysis by DECC has suggested that under one scenario in which the UK meets its target for 15% of total energy to come from renewable sources by 2020, around 12% of UK heat demand could be met by renewable heat. As of 2007 only around 1.1 % of UK heat demand was met from renewable sources.

The Government are therefore committed to tackling the financial and non-financial barriers faced by the renewable heat sector. In particular we are currently looking closely at the renewable heat incentive (RHI) proposals. We will look to make an announcement on the future of the proposed RHI scheme as soon as possible.

TREASURY

Public Sector Pensions

17. **David T. C. Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of public sector pensions in the next 25 years. [7708]

Danny Alexander: Gross Government expenditure on centrally administered public service pensions was £22.5 billion in 2008-09 and is expected to rise to £32.9 billion in 2015-16. These figures were published by the Office of Budget Responsibility in 'Budget 2010—The Economy & Public Finances—Supplementary Material'.

For the longer term, table 5.1, of the Office for Budget Responsibility's pre-Budget Forecast shows projected gross expenditure for all unfunded public service pension schemes remains stable as a share of GDP at around 2%.

Economic Growth

19. **Stephen Metcalfe:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the proposals in the June 2010 Budget intended to increase economic growth; and if he will make a statement. [7710]

Justine Greening: The Government have received representations on a range of proposals to increase economic growth. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, other Treasury Ministers, including myself, and officials have held meetings with various businesses, and representative bodies, as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

25. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to stimulate economic growth. [7716]

Justine Greening: The Budget set out a plan to rebuild the British economy, creating the conditions for sustainable economic growth.

Tackling the fiscal deficit is fundamental to this—giving the private sector the confidence that borrowing will be brought under control.

Also key is the action the Government have taken to restore the UK's competitiveness, including taking the first steps in creating the most competitive corporate tax system in the G20.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the recent growth projections of the UK economy by the International Monetary Fund in its World Economic Outlook; and if he will make a statement. [8345]

Justine Greening: The IMF's forecasts are broadly in line with the Budget forecasts produced by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

Defence Manufacturing Sector

20. **Mark Menzies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of the defence manufacturing sector; and if he will make a statement. [7711]

Danny Alexander: The UK Government value the important contribution of the defence manufacturing sector to the British armed forces and to the British economy. The companies that supply the Ministry of Defence have been, and will remain, a crucial factor in ensuring that we can provide our armed forces with the battle-winning capabilities they require, both for current operations and also for the future. I recognise however that this is a difficult time for many areas of the economy and we are committed to working closely with industry as they meet the challenges ahead.

As my hon. Friend is no doubt aware, this Government have instigated a Strategic Defence and Security Review. This will provide a coherent long-term approach to security but it will also require some tough choices in deciding what defence capabilities we buy in the future. As part of that review, we will of course consider the contribution to the economy of the defence manufacturing sector and consult a wide range of stakeholders as appropriate, including industry.

Government Borrowing

21. **Bob Blackman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his G20 counterparts on efforts to reduce levels of Government borrowing. [7712]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor enjoyed productive discussions with G20 colleagues in both South Korea and Canada. The agreements reached at those meetings are published in the respective communiqués. The action that the Government are taking to reduce borrowing is in line with European and international agreement for the need for consolidation. The G20 communiqué signed in South Korea made clear that:

> "those countries with serious fiscal challenges need to accelerate the pace of consolidation".

Budget Implications

22. **Mr Love:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of employment of implementation of the measures proposed in the June 2010 Budget. [7713]

Mr Hoban: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has published its assessment of economic prospects taking into account measures in the Budget. The OBR forecasts that employment will rise, reaching 30.1 million by 2015.

Reducing the deficit will mitigate risks to the recovery; create the conditions needed for growth and enable mortgage rates to be kept lower.

The Government are committed to supporting private sector job creation—cutting corporation tax and raising the employer National Insurance threshold to support the recovery.

Economic Growth: East Midlands

23. **Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to support economic growth in the East Midlands. [7714]

Mr Gauke: To support private sector enterprise throughout the UK and ensure all parts benefit from sustainable economic growth Government will:

> use the National Insurance system to reduce the costs to new businesses of employing staff in all parts of the UK outside of London, south east and east of England;
>
> establish a £1 billion Regional Growth Fund to support strategic, growth focused investment in the English regions; and
>
> publish a White Paper later in the summer on a new approach to sub-national growth, including Local Enterprise Partnerships, local incentives and more powers for major cities.

Capital Projects

24. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether public opinion on capital projects is taken into account by his Department in deciding whether to authorise funding for such projects. [7715]

Danny Alexander: Where approval from the Treasury is required for Government Departments to undertake projects, the case for the project is considered under the standard guidance for business cases in central Government available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_business.htm

This may as appropriate include an assessment of public opinion.

In addition, the Government are undertaking a wide-ranging public engagement programme as part of the spending review. The most promising ideas from this will be fed into the decision-making process.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7153]

Justine Greening: In the Budget the Government announced plans for reducing the regulatory burdens on business, including the introduction of a one-in, one-out system for new regulations and a fundamental review of all regulation inherited from the previous Government scheduled for introduction over the coming year. These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee.

The Your Freedom website, launched by the Deputy Prime Minister on 1 July 2010, will also give members of the public the opportunity to suggest existing regulations for removal, in order to reduce the burden on business.

The Money Laundering Regulations 2007 are currently under review by HM Treasury following a "call for evidence" undertaken last year.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Alan Johnson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he takes of the health of consumers of alcohol as a factor in determining the application of taxes and duties on alcohol. [8356]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury receives representations from the Department of Health and from various health groups in advance of the Budget. The Chancellor gives due consideration to these in reaching his decision.

The Budget announced that the Government would review alcohol taxation and pricing to ensure they tackle problem drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs or important local industries.

Green Investment Bank: Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding for the Green Investment Bank will be drawn from the *(a)* public purse and *(b)* private sector. [8309]

Justine Greening: The Government are considering a wide range of options for the scope and structure of the Green Investment Bank and will put forward detailed proposals following the spending review.

Poverty: Children

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the combined effect of the proposed public spending limits and changes in taxation and benefit measures in the 2010 Budget on *(a)* household income levels per income decile of the population measures and *(b)* relative child poverty levels in (i) Glasgow North East constituency, (ii) Glasgow, (iii) Scotland, (iv) England, (v) Wales, (vi) Northern Ireland and (vii) the United Kingdom in fiscal years (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13, (C) 2013-14, (D) 2014-15 and (E) 2015-16. [7523]

Justine Greening: Budget 2010 announced various changes to taxation and benefits, and Annex A set out the impact of these changes on households. It also set out the overall path for the public finances to 2015-16.

However, it is not possible to analyse the combined effect of the proposed public spending limits and tax and benefit measures as expenditure limits have not yet been set for Departments and for the devolved administrations. In addition to these, the spending review will also announce plans for any further savings and reforms in significant elements of AME, including social security, tax credits and public service pensions.

The Government set out in their document "The Spending Review Framework" that they will:

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7).

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the combined effect of the public spending measures in the 2010 Budget on the level of *(a)* household income per income decile of the population and *(b)* relative child poverty levels in (i) Glasgow North East constituency, (ii) Glasgow, (iii) Scotland, (iv) England, (v) Wales, (vi) Northern Ireland and (vii) the United Kingdom in fiscal years (A) 2011-12, (B) 2012-13, (C) 2013-14, (D) 2014-15 and (E) 2015-16. [7524]

Justine Greening: Budget 2010 announced various changes to taxation and benefits, and Annex A set out the impact of these changes on households. It also set out the overall path for the public finances to 2015-16.

However, it is not possible to analyse the combined effect of the proposed public spending measures as expenditure limits have not yet been set for Departments and for the devolved administrations. In addition to these, the spending review will also announce plans for any further savings and reforms in significant elements of AME, including social security, tax credits and public service pensions.

The Government set out in their document "The Spending Review Framework" that they will:

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions." (2.4, page 7).

Public Expenditure: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), whether changes have been made to the Barnett consequentials for Wales since 26 May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [7061]

Danny Alexander: The Barnett consequentials announced on 26 May 2010 have subsequently been adjusted to reflect subsequent confirmation of savings relating to expenditure on the Olympics. As a result the savings sought from the Welsh Assembly Government have been reduced to £185.5 million.

Public Sector: Pensions

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to table 48 of the Pre-Budget Forecast prepared by the Office for Budget Responsibility, on what planning assumptions relating to *(a)* wages and *(b)* levels of employment in the public sector the projections of the cost of public sector pensions are based. [4543]

Danny Alexander: The assumptions relating to wages and levels of employment assumed for the net public service pensions projections are consistent with the wider projections for public sector average earnings growth and levels of employment that are used in the pre-Budget forecast published on 14 June 2010.

Details of these assumptions were published on 30 June on the Office for Budget Responsibility website at the following web address:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [7170]

Mr Gauke: The number of staff in HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in Northern Ireland for each year since 2005 is shown in the following table:

HMRC staff in Northern Ireland 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2010

	FTE[1]	*HC*[2]
1 April 2005	2,538.10	2,693
1 April 2006	2,360.32	2,513
1 April 2007	2,325.93	2,480
1 April 2008	2,204.31	2,364
1 April 2009	2,087.75	2,257
31 March 2010	1,914.77	2,089
30 June 2010	1,872.33	2,049

[1] FTE = Full-time equivalent. This is the equivalent number of full-time posts.
[2] HC = Headcount. This is the total number of staff working in the organisation, irrespective of working patterns.

Mr Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many local offices run by HM Revenue and Customs have been closed in each parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [7173]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has closed five offices in Northern Ireland since 2005. The following table gives details of the parliamentary constituency in which each of the offices was located and the year of closure.

Parliamentary constituency	*Number of HMRC offices closed*	*Year of closure*
South Antrim	1	2006
Foyle	1	2007
Belfast West	1	2009
East Londonderry	1	2010
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1	2010

Tax Avoidance

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent research he has commissioned on *(a)* current levels of tax avoidance and *(b)* measures to close loopholes used by those avoiding tax; [7669]

(2) if he will publish the *(a)* modelling and *(b)* assessments his Department has undertaken in the last six months on (i) the extent of tax avoidance and (ii) measures it has considered to close tax loopholes; [7670]

(3) what mechanisms his Department uses *(a)* to estimate the extent of tax avoidance and *(b)* to assess the effectiveness of measures to close tax loopholes; [7671]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the extent of tax avoidance in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [7672]

(5) what steps his Department takes to identify possible loopholes in the tax system which *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals may use (i) to avoid paying and (ii) pay less tax. [7683]

Mr Gauke: The Emergency Budget set out the Government's intention to build in sustainable defences against avoidance opportunities when undertaking policy reform and by reviewing areas of the tax system in which repeated changes have been necessary to close loopholes.

Chapter 2 of Budget document also announced a number of specific measures to counter tax avoidance. Such measures are underpinned by HMRC's identification and assessment of avoidance risks.

The Disclosure of Tax Avoidance schemes rules place a requirement on the promoters and users of avoidance schemes to disclose details to HMRC. HMRC also uses other sources of information to identify risks from tax avoidance. From the information gathered, HMRC is able to tackle avoidance through operational work, identify where legislation could be strengthened to reduce the risk of avoidance, and evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken to reduce avoidance.

HMRC estimate that the overall tax gap was £40 billion in 2007-08. This estimate and the underlying methodology was published in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2009", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps.pdf

This work will be updated and published annually as Official Statistics.

Alongside "Measuring Tax Gaps 2009", HMRC also published "Protecting Tax Revenues 2009"

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

which attributed the tax gap, using management assumptions, to the different behaviours driving it. Avoidance was estimated to account for 17.5% of the total tax gap.

Previously, in March 2008 HMRC published details of analysis from 2005 that attempted to derive broad-brush estimates of the direct tax gap at the start of the decade:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/direct-tax-gaps.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/measuring-tax-gap.pdf

This publication contained an estimate of the tax gap for avoidance for direct taxes of £10 billion, within a range of £5 billion to £15 billion. The wide range around the estimate highlighted the inherent uncertainty in its production.

A list of the external research activities funded by HMRC is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/

VAT: Channel Islands

Sajid Javid: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to end the sale of goods worth less than £18 free of value added tax by companies based in the Channel Islands to customers in the UK. [7044]

Mr Gauke: The Government are actively reviewing the operation of the VAT relief on imports from outside the EU, known as Low Value Consignment Relief. In assessing the case for change, the Government will take into account the need to balance often conflicting considerations including the impact on consumers, UK businesses and Royal Mail and other parcel operators, as well as the overall fiscal position and the practicality and cost of enforcing any changes to the operation of the relief.

VAT: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the number of jobs in the economy in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough of raising the rate of value added tax to 20 per cent. [8391]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member for Dudley North to the answer given by the Exchequer Secretary, the hon. Member for South West Hertfordshire (Mr Gauke) to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 506W.

The Office for Budget Responsibility has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Welfare Tax Credits: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Bristol East constituency receive tax credits. [7260]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families with children benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010'. This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Bristol East constituency with an annual income of *(a)* less than £20,000, *(b)* between £20,000 and £24,999, *(c)* between £25,000 and £29,999, *(d)* between £30,000 and £34,999, *(e)* between £35,000 and £39,999 and *(f)* £40,000 or more are in receipt of the child care element of tax credits. [7295]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Table 1: Bristol East constituency families in receipt of the child care element of tax credits by income band

Household income	*Number*
Up to £10,000	310
£10,000 to £20,000	170
£20,000 to £30,000	200
Over £30,000	130

This analysis is based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families are in receipt of the baby element of tax credits in Bristol East constituency. [7496]

Mr Gauke: The number of families receiving the baby element in Bristol East constituency is 860.

This analysis is based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Durham

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in City of Durham constituency have an annual income of over £30,000. [8461]

Mr Gauke: This information is published in the HMRC publication 'Household Income distribution of Tax Credits families by Westminster Constituency—April 2010', a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. It will be published on HMRC's website shortly.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies: Boundary Commissions

Mr Straw: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much funding he plans to provide for the boundary commissions in each of the next three years. [7895]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24, a Bill will be introduced before the summer recess to implement the coalition agreement commitment to make provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. Once the Bill is published the Government will work with the Boundary Commissions to ensure they have the funding they need to carry out the task set for them by Parliament.

Mr Straw: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether an equality impact assessment will be produced for his legislation to change parliamentary constituency boundaries. [7896]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24, a Bill will be introduced before the summer recess to implement the coalition agreement commitment to make provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. The Cabinet Office will follow the departmental policy of carrying out an initial screening exercise to assess whether the policy has any adverse equality impacts and, if this process establishes that an equality impact assessment is necessary, one will be produced.

Mr Betts: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what changes there will be to the procedures and processes used by the Boundary Commission in its work reviewing constituency boundaries and reducing constituency numbers compared with past boundary reviews. [7904]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24, a Bill will be introduced before the summer recess to implement the coalition agreement commitment to make provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. Detailed provisions on the procedures and rules for the conduct of the review by the Boundary Commissions will be included in the Bill and Parliament will have the opportunity to debate it in full.

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Office from central London to Bassetlaw. [6564]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 598W.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what training has been provided for Ministers by his Office since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6424]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 51W.

Electoral Register

Mr Straw: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many eligible voters who are missing from the electoral register he estimates will have been added to the register by December 2010. [7897]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an estimate.

Electoral Systems

Mr Straw: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on his proposal to speed up implementation of individual voter registration. [6349]

Mr Harper: The Deputy Prime Minister and I have had discussions with the Commission on a number of matters. The Government are currently considering the options for implementation of individual electoral registration and will inform the House of their plans in due course.

Electoral Systems: Referendums

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether Members of the House of Lords would be eligible to vote in a proposed referendum on the alternative vote system. [5986]

Mr Harper: Decisions on the conduct and procedure for the referendum, including the franchise, have not been finalised. Further details will be announced in due course.

Helen Jones: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether prisoners would be eligible to vote in a proposed referendum on the alternative vote system; and if he will make a statement. [6086]

Mr Harper: Decisions on the conduct and procedure for the referendum, including the franchise, have not been finalised. Further details will be announced in due course. The Government are considering afresh the best way forward on the issue of prisoner voting rights more generally.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what information he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from the Electoral Commission on the simultaneous holding of the referendum on reform of the electoral system for the House of Commons in May 2011 with elections to the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales. [7548]

Mr Harper: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced the Government's proposals for a referendum on the alternative vote, on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-25, and has held discussions with the Commission on a number of matters.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what information he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from the Electoral Commission on the wording of the proposed question in the referendum on reform of the electoral system for the House of Commons to be held in May 2011. [7549]

Mr Harper: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced the Government's proposals for a referendum on the alternative vote, on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 23-25. Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Commission has a statutory duty to comment on the intelligibility of any proposed referendum question. The Commission's assessment of the proposed question will begin after the Bill is introduced and their views shall be published in such manner as they may determine.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association, *(b)* the Scottish Executive, *(c)* the Welsh Assembly Government, *(d)* the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and *(e)* the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives on the timing of the proposed referendum on the alternative vote system. [6866]

Mr Harper: My right hon. Friend, the Deputy Prime Minister announced the Government's proposals for a referendum on the alternative vote, on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 23-25.

Ministers and officials will work closely with all interested parties as these proposals are taken forward.

House of Lords: Reform

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 478W, on House of Lords: reform, whether he plans to propose a power for electors to recall an elected peer; [6924]

(2) if he will include in his legislative proposals for elections to the House of Lords provisions for electors to recall a member of that House so elected. [7535]

Mr Harper: The cross-party Committee on House of Lords reform, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, will consider what options are necessary to bring about a more accountable wholly or mainly elected second chamber. The Government will publish their proposals in a draft Bill by no later than the end of this year.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his proposals for the reform of the House of Lords will be revenue-neutral. [7522]

Mr Harper: The cross-party Committee on House of Lords reform, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, is considering the size of the reformed second chamber and other issues which will determine the overall cost of a second chamber. The Government will publish an estimate of the costs alongside a draft Bill.

Members: Conduct

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will consider the merits of introducing a power for electors to recall *(a)* a Member of the London Assembly, *(b)* a local councillor and *(c)* a Member of the European Parliament. [7495]

Mr Harper: The Government have no plans at this stage to introduce a power for electors to recall Members of the London Assembly, local councillors, or Members of the European Parliament.

Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Office has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6425]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Nothing has been spent by my office on official photographs since the formation of the present Administration.

CABINET OFFICE

Childbirth: Wakefield

Mary Creagh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many live births there were in Wakefield constituency in 2009-10. [8146]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many live births there were in Wakefield constituency in 2009-10.

Birth statistics for subnational areas from the registration system are published on a calendar year basis. The latest year for which figures are available is 2009. These are provisional.

On this basis the number of live births in 2009 for women living in Wakefield constituency was 1,243. This figure is based on the parliamentary constituency boundaries for 2010.

The final release of 2009 birth statistics for England and Wales is planned for 21 July 2010. Figures for 2010 will be published in 2011.

Civil Servants: Redundancy Pay

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of public sector employees in Wales who will be directly affected by the implementation of the proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme announced on 6 July 2010. [7824]

Mr Maude: The selection of civil servants for redundancy or early departure schemes is a matter for individual civil service departments and agencies.

Construction: Self-employed

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the most recent estimate is of the number of people registered as self-employed and working in the construction industry. [6605]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the number of people registered as self-employed and working in the construction industry. (6605)

For the three-month period January-March 2010 it is estimated that 850,000 self-employed people were working in the construction industry. The estimate of registered self-employed people is not available.

These estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are not seasonally adjusted. The LFS is a survey of residents in private households and therefore excludes people living in communal establishments such as hostels and residential homes.

As with any sample survey, the estimates provided are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7502]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7565]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7622]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8287]

Mr Maude: As part of the work of the Efficiency and Reform Group we are looking at the most efficient use of Government property. No decisions have yet been made on relocations.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7440]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury handbook on 'Regularity and Propriety'.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7146]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office currently has the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and its associated regulations under review. The Charities Act 2006 contains a requirement that it is reviewed in 2011.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7459]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff in the Cabinet Office are on temporary civil service contracts. [6921]

Mr Maude: As at 7 July 2010, the Cabinet Office employs 90 staff on temporary civil service contracts recruited in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners Recruitment principles.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7314]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury handbook on 'Regularity and Propriety'.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7421]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7995]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 30 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 563W and 28 June 2010, *Official Report,* column 446W.

In addition, the Government publish on a quarterly basis the expenses incurred by the most senior officials which includes use of the Government car service and other travel expenses.

Developing Countries: Forests

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what work his Department's European and Global Issues Secretariat undertakes on international negotiations on the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. [6632]

Mr Maude: The Secretariat's role is to support the Prime Minister and the Cabinet in achieving collective agreement for the Government's EU and global policy objectives. This includes co-ordinating and agreeing policy positions for international negotiations including on the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries.

Energy: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what work his Department's European and Global Issues Secretariat undertakes on global energy subsidy reform. [8011]

Mr Maude: The Secretariat's role is to support the Prime Minister and the Cabinet in achieving collective agreement for the Government's EU and global policy objectives. This includes co-ordinating and agreeing the UK's policy position for international negotiations for the energy subsidies reform workstream being pursued in the G20.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6868]

Mr Maude: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government Communications

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Government Communications Network plans to take to ensure communications from Government departments and other public sector organisations reach people who do not have access to the internet. [6927]

Mr Maude: The Government Communications Network (GCN) is a virtual, online network and best practice resource open to civil servants who have a role or interest in Government communications.

The GCN best practice communications framework actively encourages Government communicators to consider the appropriate range of on and offline channels to communicate effectively with all audiences.

In addition, Martha Lane Fox was recently appointed by the Prime Minister as UK Digital Champion with a remit to encourage as many people as possible to go online.

Lone Parents

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in *(a)* Ashfield, *(b)* Argyll and Bute and *(c)* Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency. [6638]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in (a) Ashfield, (b) Argyll and Bute and (c) Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituencies. (6638)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families that include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figures are for 2008 and are shown in the table below. These are based on 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries and there have been no boundary changes since 2008 in the three areas requested.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families—with at least one child under 16 (Thousand)*
Ashfield constituency	2
Argyll and Bute constituency	2
Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency	1

Source:
APS January to December 2008

Lone Parents: Lewisham

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Lewisham East constituency. [6585]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Lewisham East constituency. (6585)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families that include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary. Lewisham East, as constituted in 2008, consisted of seven electoral wards. In 2010, Lewisham East also consists of seven wards, but one ward has changed, so the area covered is different. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituency.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families-with at least one child under 16 (Thousand)*
Lewisham East constituency (2008)	6

Source:
APS January to December 2008

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Conduct

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether any special advisers have been disciplined for *(a)* bullying, *(b)* breaching the law and *(c)* breaching of the code of conduct for special advisers since 12 May 2010. [7022]

Mr Maude: No.

Office of Government Commerce Common Minimum Standards for Construction

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the outcome was of the review of Office of Government Commerce Common Minimum Standards for Construction; and if he will ensure that all Government contracts require workers on a construction site to be *(a)* Construction Skills Certification Scheme-carded and *(b)* able to prove their competence in another appropriate way. [8350]

Mr Maude: The Office of Government Commerce's Common Minimum Standards (CMS) mandate that departmental clients must ensure that their construction contracts require workers to be registered on CSCS or to be able to prove their competence in another appropriate way.

OGC's initial review (completed in December 2009) determined that the CMS document needs to be updated to ensure that it continues to include all relevant government policy that affects the procurement of built environments. That action has been programmed to take place later this year (2010-11).

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Advantage West Midlands has spent on grants in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Stafford constituency in each year since 1999. [7755]

Mr Prisk: The Advantage West Midlands Regional Development Agency's grant in aid budgets in each year since 1999 are set out in the following table. The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the Regional Economic Strategy and their Corporate Plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

Grant in aid budgets

	£ million
2010-11	202
2009-10	296
2008-09	296
2007-08	291
2006-07	282
2005-06	288
2004-05	219
2003-04	240
2002-03	204
2001-02	141
2000-01	113
1999-2000	103

Advantage West Midlands: Finance

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Advantage West Midlands has spent on *(a)* grants and *(b)* administration for grants in each year since 1999. [6819]

Mr Prisk: The Advantage West Midlands Regional Development Agency's grant in aid and administration budgets in each year since 1999 are set out in the following table. The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the Regional Economic Strategy and their Corporate Plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

	Grant in aid budgets (£ million)	*Administration budgets (£000)*
2010-11	202	21,685
2009-10	296	24,036
2008-09	296	24,491
2007-08	291	20,992
2006-07	282	20,535
2005-06	288	21,311
2004-05	219	21,050
2003-04	240	18,199
2002-03	204	15,616
2001-02	141	13,023
2000-01	113	11,884
1999-2000	103	9,200

Business Links

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has for the future of *(a)* Business Link and *(b)* Business Link North West. [8256]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to abolishing the Regional Development Agencies and establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships. Business Link is provided by the RDAs and we are currently reviewing all the functions of the RDAs to determine whether and how best to deliver them in future. Business Link including Business Link North West is being reviewed as part of this process.

Business: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any businesses in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Bexley have received loans from the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme in the last 12 months. [7856]

Mr Prisk: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee came into operation in January 2009. As of 7 July 2010, in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency eight businesses have drawn down loans totalling £518,491, and in the London borough of Bexley 17 businesses have drawn down loans totalling £1.47 million.

Business: Equality

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to reduce the gender gap between men and women in setting up new businesses. [6815]

Mr Prisk: The Government believe that much more needs to be done to encourage women to start their own businesses. If women started businesses at the same rate as men each year it would create an additional 150,000 start-up businesses. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has asked my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Baroness Wilcox) to consider the best way of addressing the issues and challenges relating to women's enterprise.

Business: Females

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government Equalities Office is taking to establish female entrepreneurial role models. [6814]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has asked my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Baroness Wilcox) to consider the best way of addressing the issues and challenges relating to women's enterprise.

Business: Operating Costs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average costs of operating an office in *(a)* London, *(b)* Bassetlaw and *(c)* other places outside London. [7891]

Mr Davey: I refer the hon. Member to the Office of Government Commerce "State of the Estate" report for 2009, which can be found at the following link and includes property costs:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/high_performing_property_the_state_of_the_estate_2009.asp

Business: Rural Areas

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to support rural businesses. [8246]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government intend to modernise how support, information and advice are provided to all businesses everywhere. BIS is working with DEFRA to ensure that rural needs and interests are appropriately addressed in relevant Government economic programmes and initiatives, such as the roll-out of reliable and effective broadband access to rural areas.

Companies: Registration

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what market testing his Department undertook in relation to Form IN01, Application to Register a Company prior to its introduction in 2009. [8388]

Mr Davey: Companies House does not carry out market testing in the usual sense but it carried out consultations in relation to form IN01 with the Companies Act Programme Working Party and E-Filing/Forms Producers Working Party quarterly from 6 March 2008 to 2 February 2009 prior to its introduction in 2009. These working parties include 22 regional focus groups, primarily made up of the principal company formation agents, and 36 forms-producing companies.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are entitled to the use of (i) a car with a dedicated driver, (ii) a car from the Government car pool and (iii) a taxi ordered through a departmental account. [3212]

Mr Davey: As was the case under previous Governments, all civil servants and special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal background note relating to each parliamentary question tabled by the hon. Member for Southend West and answered by his Department since June 2010. [5526]

Mr Davey: Where provided, internal background notes linked to written answers to parliamentary questions tabled by my hon. Friend since June 2010 will be placed in the Library. Supplementary information provided for the oral answer made by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise to my hon. Friend on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 559, will not be provided as to do so would be likely to prejudice the free and frank nature of the advice that Ministers receive from officials. It is in the public interest that officials are able to provide balanced and, where necessary, extensive briefing to ensure that Ministers are able to fully respond to questions and discharge properly their duties to account for Government policy to Parliament. If the content of briefings to Ministers and discussion of current policy issues were released, officials would be more circumspect in drafting such briefing and Ministers' ability to respond to questions would be compromised as a result. I am sending a copy of this answer to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann).

East of England Development Agency: Official Hospitality

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the East of England Development Agency has spent on the provision of *(a)* live and *(b)* recorded music at hospitality functions in each year since its inception. [7131]

Mr Prisk: On the provision of music at hospitality functions, East of England Development Agency has spent £160 on live music in 2007 for a student string quartet at the Destination Growth business dinner; and on recorded music nothing has been incurred.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness of rules on the disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment and *(b)* level of compliance with those rules; what steps he is taking to ensure that such equipment is not shipped abroad for disposal; and if he will make a statement. [7559]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* Since the introduction of the UK's Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations in 2007, the UK has consistently exceeded the annual target placed on member states by the European Commission to separately collect a minimum of 4 kg of WEEE per head of population. The UK achieved a collection rate of 7.633 kg in 2009, which compares with 7.06 kg in 2008.

The environment agencies regulate producer and treatment obligations under the WEEE regulations. There are currently 5,562 registered producers in the UK, 147 operators of approved authorised treatment facilities that undertake the treatment, recycling or reuse of waste equipment at 224 different sites and 45 approved exporters that can send waste equipment for treatment and recovery overseas.

EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel: North East

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been allocated to the North East from the EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel in each of the last five years. [4741]

Mr Prisk: Her Majesty's Government do not hold the information requested. The Research Fund for Coal and Steel is administered solely by the European Commission and decisions on funding collaborative research proposals are made on a project-by-project basis by them.

Fossil Fuels: Export Credit Guarantees

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 190W, on fossil fuels: export credit guarantees, when he plans to bring forward primary legislation to amend the Export and Investment Guarantees Act 1991 to end Export Credits Guarantee Department plans to support dirty fossil-fuel energy production. [7386]

Mr Davey: As stated in my answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 416W, I will be discussing with ministerial colleagues in BIS and in other Departments, and with officials in the ECGD and UKTI, how best to take forward the Coalition Programme commitment that:

> "ECGD and UKTI should become champions for British companies that develop and export innovative green technologies around the world, instead of supporting investment in dirty fossil-fuel energy production."

The outcome will determine what steps will be necessary to implement this commitment.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Potatoes

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what research and development grants his Department has provided for the development of genetically modified potatoes resistant to late blight since May 1997, including for research into resistance genes and mechanisms; [4887]

(2) what research and development grants the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has provided for the development of potatoes resistant to late blight using traditional breeding since May 1997; [4888]

(3) what research and development grants his Department has provided for the development of genetically modified potatoes resistant to potato cyst eelworm since May 1997; [4889]

(4) what research and development grants the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council provided for the development of genetically modified potatoes resistant to potato cyst eelworm since May 1997. [4890]

Mr Willetts: This Department has not directly funded research for the development of genetically modified potatoes resistant to late blight or for the development of genetically modified potatoes resistant to potato cyst eelworm.

The Department provides funding to the seven UK research councils, including the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). Since May 1997, BBSRC has funded research to the value of £1,678,000 for basic and strategic bioscience of direct relevance to late blight resistance in genetically modified potatoes, and £1,286,000 for research into the biology of resistance genes and the underlying molecular and cellular mechanism. In addition, BBSRC has funded a number of research grants into the basic biology of pathogenicity of Phytophthora infestans (the infective agent of potato blight). These are not commercial trials of potential crop varieties.

Since May 1997, BBSRC has funded research to the value of £837,000 of direct relevance to late blight resistance in potatoes using traditional breeding methods. In addition, BBSRC has funded a number of research grants into the basic biology of pathogenicity of Phytophthora infestans (the infective agent of potato blight). These are not commercial trials of potential crop varieties.

Since May 1997, BBSRC has funded research to the value of £1,419,500 for basic and strategic bioscience of direct relevance to potato cyst eelworm resistance in genetically modified potatoes. In addition, BBSRC has funded a range of underpinning research, for example into identifying genes that potentially confer resistance to potato cyst eelworm. These are not commercial trials of potential crop varieties.

Northwest Regional Development Agency

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from local authorities in Merseyside on the abolition of the North West Development Agency. [8044]

Mr Prisk: Letters have been received from Sefton council and Wirral metropolitan borough council about abolition of the North West Development Agency. A letter has also been received from 4NW on behalf of north west local authorities, co-signed by other regional stakeholders.

Northwest Regional Development Agency: Wirral

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance the North West Regional Development Agency has provided to businesses in Wirral West constituency in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [8259]

Mr Prisk: The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine what assistance to provide to business, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the Regional Economic Strategy and their Corporate Plans. The Department does not hold details of all assistance given by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

Overseas Trade: Iraq

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase trade between the UK and the Kurdistan region of Iraq. [7681]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) staff in Baghdad and London, together with the British consulate general team in Erbil, support British companies wishing to trade with Iraqi Kurdistan.

UKTI works closely with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) representation in London and business support organisations such as the Iraq Britain Business Council and the Middle East Association, on trade missions and other events aimed at ensuring that British companies are aware of business opportunities in Iraqi Kurdistan and able to exploit them. In February this year, the KRG participated in UKTI's "Partner Middle East" road shows, giving access to over 300 companies in London and Manchester. In June, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, spoke at the "Kurdistan Trade & Investment Conference" in London. In October, UKTI will support the first ever official British presence at the Erbil International Trade Fair, to which UKTI's CEO, Sir Andrew Cahn, intends to lead a sizeable UK business delegation.

Post Offices: National Lottery

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions his Department has had with the Federation of Sub-Postmasters and Postmistresses regarding Camelot's application to the National Lottery Commission to operate additional commercial services in partnership with the Post Office; and if he will make a statement; [7658]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport regarding the Post Office's involvement in Camelot's application to the National Lottery Commission to operate commercial bill payment and mobile telephone top-up services; and if he will make a statement. [7661]

Mr Davey: Following a public consultation, Camelot's proposal to provide commercial services through lottery terminals remains subject to the regulatory approval of the National Lottery Commission.

A clarification from Camelot published by the Commission on 8 April confirmed that there was currently no concluded agreement between the Post Office and Camelot in relation to the provision of commercial services.

I have not had discussions with the Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport about Camelot's application but my officials have discussed with the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters their views and consultation response on the Camelot application.

Qualifications

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to exempt professional degree programmes from the conditions of the Equal or Lower Qualifications policy. [6820]

Mr Willetts: Student finance issues are currently being considered by the Independent Review of Higher Education funding and Student Finance, chaired by Lord Browne, which we expect to report in the autumn.

Science: Government Assistance

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support *(a)* the engineering industry, *(b)* science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills and *(c)* the Institution of Engineering and Technology. [7166]

Mr Prisk: The information is as follows:

(a) The Government fully recognise the importance of the engineering industry, and its role in achieving a balanced economy. In developing our plans to rebalance the economy, we are keen to ensure that we provide the best environment for long-term sustainable growth in engineering.

(b) The Science Cluster of Sector Skills Councils is undertaking a strategic planning and review of activity to provide a fit between STEM skills provision and skills needs. Apprenticeships are a major contributor to the nation's STEM skills and this Government are committed to expanding Apprenticeships, in particular, Advanced and Higher Apprenticeship. In further education, the Learning and Skills Improvement Service is working to improve the content

and delivery of STEM skills. This Department also works closely with the Department for Education to encourage students to choose science and engineering subjects. The Government currently support a range of initiatives such as STEMNET, the Big Bang Fair, and HEFCE's strategically important and vulnerable subjects, and National HE STEM, programmes.

(c) The Government do not provide any support to the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Sheffield Forgemasters: Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what factors he took into account in his review of the decision to provide Sheffield Forgemasters with an £80 million loan facility; and what representations his Department received as part of that review; [7246]

(2) whether third parties were invited to contribute to his review of the decision to provide Sheffield Forgemasters with an £80 million loan facility; [7247]

(3) whether any representations were received by his review of the decision to provide Sheffield Forgemasters with an £80 million loan facility on Sheffield Forgemasters funding the total cost of the investment commercially. [7407]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* On factors taken into account in the Government's review of the decision to provide Sheffield Forgemasters with an £80 million loan facility, I refer to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to the hon. Member on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 505.

On representations received during the review, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 540W. The Department did not approach anyone outside of Government as part of the review of the decision on the loan facility to Sheffield Forgemasters.

Officials were asked to consider the possibility of Sheffield Forgemasters funding the total cost of the press project commercially. No assessment from outside of Government was commissioned.

Students: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to increase the level of the student maintenance loan in line with the increase in the rate of value added tax. [6724]

Mr Willetts: The student maintenance loan has been set for the 2010/11 academic year and we have no plans to change it. No decision has been made on the level of maintenance loan for future years.

UK Commission for Employment and Skills

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the *(a)* Chair and *(b)* Chief Executive of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills since 12 May 2010. [7280]

Mr Hayes: The Minister of State for Universities and Science, met the chief executive of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, at the Labour Market Economists Seminars organised by the Department on 23 June and 5 July.

I attended part of a meeting of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills on 26 May, where I met both the chair and the chief executive. I also had a bilateral meeting with the chief executive on 23 June.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absent parents were sent to prison for non-payment of child maintenance in each of the last three years. [7881]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Susan Park:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. As the Child Maintenance Commissioner is currently on annual leave I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absent parents were sent to prison for non-payment of child maintenance in each of the last three years. [7881]

When the CSA commences court proceedings for wilful refusal or culpable neglect to pay child maintenance the court decides what sentence shall be imposed. Committal to prison is one option available to them.

The number of non-resident parents committed to prison by the courts for non-payment of child maintenance in each of the last three years is provided in the table below.

Committal sentences

Year to date	*Number*
February 2007 to January 2008	35
February 2008 to January 2009	30
February 2009 to January 2010	50

Note: Figures rounded to the nearest 5 due to data disclosure rules.

Information on the total volume of enforcement actions undertaken by the Agency is routinely published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics. This is available through the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/qss/QSS%20March10.pdf

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many buildings his Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [6850]

Chris Grayling: As at 1 July 2010, the Department for Work and Pensions (including Jobcentre Plus, Directgov, The Pensions Regulator, Health and Safety Executive and The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission) occupies:

(a) 100 buildings in London; and

(b) 954 buildings in the remainder of the UK.

Through implementation of our estate strategies (covering 2003-11) we expect to have reduced our estates by 28% since the Department was formed, vacating over 800 buildings.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8326]

Chris Grayling: The DWP does not routinely record the mileage travelled by each Minister in the Department in a Government car and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers and *(b)* other individuals are employed in his Department to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7307]

Chris Grayling: No civil servants are employed by the Department solely as speechwriters for Ministers. Three private secretaries undertake this role as part of their normal duties.

In addition, two interns contributed to speechwriting for Ministers during their six-month contracts which have just expired.

Disability Living Allowance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there will be any changes to attendance allowance as a result of his proposed changes to disability living allowance. [8434]

Maria Miller: The commitments announced in the Budget to reform disability living allowance related specifically to the working age caseload.

Disability Living Allowance: Medical Examinations

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether a person whose condition worsens following a medical assessment for disability living allowance will be required to undergo a further such assessment; [8277]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that a claimant's general practitioner is contacted prior to a medical assessment for disability living allowance, with particular reference to cases where the disability is not common; [8278]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals for the exemption from the medical assessment for disability living allowance for those diagnosed with *(a)* mental health and *(b)* learning disabilities; [8279]

(4) what alternatives to medical assessments are under consideration or part of his proposals for the reform of disability living allowance; [8280]

(5) what plans he has to consult *(a)* disabled people and *(b)* organisations representing disabled people on changes to the disability living allowance assessment form; [8281]

(6) what factors medical assessments for entitlement to disability living allowance will take into account once entitlement is not based on a particular disabling condition; [8282]

(7) what plans he has to revise the claim form for disability living allowance to assist claimants whose disabilities mean that they may have difficulty in completing the existing form; [8283]

(8) if he will assess the merits of introducing alternative methods of submitting a claim for disability living allowance in cases where a person finds it difficult to complete a claim form because of their disability; [8284]

(9) if he will assess the merits of introducing self-assessment questionnaires prior to a medical assessment for disability living allowance to determine whether such a medical assessment is necessary; [8285]

(10) what plans he has for the medical assessment of claimants of disability living allowance in cases where the person's disability makes it difficult for them to attend such an assessment; [8362]

(11) if he will issue guidance to those assessing claims for disability living allowance to require the consideration of all relevant *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical information. [8432]

Maria Miller: Commitments were made in the emergency Budget to reform DLA to ensure it supports those people who are most in need. We will introduce a more objective assessment and consider, as part of these reforms, how we can reduce the burden of long claim forms for applicants.

As we develop our proposals, we will talk to disabled people and a broad range of representative organisations to ensure support is effectively targeted on those with greatest need and distributed on a consistent basis, while continuing to tackle the inequalities that can arise from severe disability.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those in receipt of disability living allowance will be required to undergo a further medical assessment following his proposed reforms of that allowance. [8433]

Maria Miller: The June Budget red book made clear that we would develop a new objective assessment for disability living allowance and also apply that approach to people of working age already in receipt of disability living allowance starting from 2013-14.

EC Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations. [6873]

Chris Grayling: Government Departments, as employers, are required to act in accordance with a wide variety of regulation both of EU origin and domestic.

There is no pre-existing breakdown of the costs imposed on Departments by EU regulations to draw on in producing such an estimate. It is not standard accounting practice to distinguish regulatory compliance costs from overall running costs.

Producing such an estimate could not be undertaken without incurring disproportionate expenditure.

Employment and Support Allowance: Arthritis

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employment and support allowance is payable to a person with rheumatoid arthritis. [7133]

Chris Grayling: ESA is not paid on the basis of a specific medical condition. It is paid at different rates depending on an individual's circumstances and where they are in the claim process.

Employment Schemes: Learning Disability

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made any estimate of the average annual cost of *(a)* supporting a person with learning disabilities into employment and *(b)* a local authority day-care placement for a person with learning disabilities. [3068]

Maria Miller: The Department offers a range of employment programmes depending on the needs of the customer. This includes specialist programmes such as Work Preparation and WORKSTEP, which are particularly suitable for some customers with a learning disability who may need specialist support to prepare for work and ongoing support once in employment.

In 2008-09, 13,680 customers were supported in employment through the WORKSTEP programme at a total cost of £69 million. There is no estimate of the individual cost of supporting someone with learning disabilities into employment.

Estimates of the cost of local authority day-care placements are a matter for my hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health.

Housing Benefit

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 110W, on housing benefit, how many households in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales were receiving the maximum local housing allowance payment in the most recent month for which figures are available; and for how long on average households in each such area had been in receipt of that benefit in that month. [8156]

Steve Webb: At March 2010 there were fewer than 100 customers who received the maximum local housing allowance rate. All these customers were located in the Central London Broad Rental Market Area. Information on durations for the receipt of housing benefit is not available yet.

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology his Department uses to estimate the cost to the economy of occupational illnesses; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest assessment produced by his Department using this methodology. [8018]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) estimates the costs to employers, individuals and to society of occupational illness (and also of workplace injury). Estimates are based on both the financial and non-financial costs associated with illness and the published HSE statistics on occupational ill health. Non-financial costs are estimated using a 'Willingness to Pay' methodology, in line with Treasury guidance.

The most recent estimates and details of the methodology are contained in the published report: 'Interim update of the Costs to Britain of Workplace Accidents and Work related Ill Health'. I have arranged for a copy of this report to be placed in the Library. Work is currently under way to update the estimates, which it is planned to publish in late summer 2010.

Industrial Health and Safety: Inspections

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average percentage of a health and safety inspector's working time was spent inspecting workplaces in each year from 1997 to 2009. [7898]

Chris Grayling: Information is not available in the form requested and cannot be assembled without disproportionate cost.

Industrial Injuries: Sick Leave

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days absent from work were caused by a workplace injury in each year from 1997 to 2009. [7900]

Chris Grayling: The estimated number of working days lost in 2000-01 and 2003-04 to 2008-09, as a result of workplace injury (in the previous 12 months), are given in the following table. These data are not available prior to 2000-01 or for 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Year	*Estimated full-day equivalent working days lost due to self-reported workplace injuries (thousands)*
2000-01	8,065
2003-04	8,785
2004-05	7,021
2005-06	6,139
2006-07	5,773
2007-08	6,262
2008-09	4,711

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what he expects the staffing level at Jobcentre Plus to be in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [7109]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what he expects the staffing level at Jobcentre Plus to be in the next 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We continue to monitor workloads and economic forecasts and Jobcentre Plus staffing levels are reviewed on a regular basis as part of that. We currently expect our staffing to be around 76,500 full time equivalents at March 2011. Beyond that point, staffing and spending plans for Jobcentre Plus will be dependent on the levels to be announced on 20 October 2010 in the Spending Review settlement set out by HM Treasury.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Temporary Employment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on using temporary and agency staff in Jobcentre Plus front offices. [7110]

Chris Grayling: A recruitment freeze currently applies to all parts of DWP, with only very limited exceptions. For Jobcentre Plus these exceptions have to be agreed by the chief executive and reported regularly to myself as Minister for Employment.

The Department for Work Pensions policy allows short-term vacancies to be filled by a fixed term or temporary appointment. This includes their use in Jobcentre Plus front offices. Before considering recruiting fixed term or temporary appointments, all other sources of filling posts must have been explored.

In exceptional circumstances where there are no suitable internal applicants and businesses cannot recruit temporary or fixed term employees, consideration may be given to the use of temporary/interim employees supplied via an employment agency. All internal and external options must have been exhausted prior to seeking the appointment of agency supplied workers.

Jobseekers Allowance

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of jobseeker's allowance have had that allowance withdrawn following a failure to meet each condition attached to receipt of the allowance in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [6885]

Chris Grayling: The requested information can be readily obtained from the Department for Work and Pensions' website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

and has been placed in the Library.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* others in Bristol East constituency who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months by 2013. [7236]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Clwyd

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* lone parents and *(b)* others who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months by 2013 in Clwyd South constituency. [7002]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* lone parents, *(b)* people under the age of 24 years and *(c)* others in East Lothian constituency who will have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months by 2013. [7187]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the amount which will be paid in jobseeker's allowance in the next *(a)* 12, *(b)* 24 and *(c)* 36 months to residents in (i) the West Midlands, (ii) Dudley borough and (iii) Dudley North constituency. [8413]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available: the Department for Work and Pensions does not forecast benefit expenditure at sub-national level.

Lone Parents: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents there are in Bristol East constituency. [7243]

Maria Miller: In 2008, there were estimated to be 4,200 lone parents in Bristol East. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100.

The estimate is based on the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS). The latest available wave for the HAPS is 2008. In 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries were different. The information given reflects the population in the current boundaries as closely as possible.

It is important to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Lone Parents: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents there are in East Lothian constituency. [7179]

Maria Miller: In 2008, there were estimated to be 2,200 lone parents in East Lothian. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 100.

The estimate is based on the Household Annual Population Survey (HAPS). The latest available wave for the HAPS is 2008. In 2008 parliamentary constituency boundaries were different. The information given reflects the population in the current boundaries as closely as possible.

It is important to note that as with any sample survey, estimates from the HAPS are subject to a margin of uncertainty as different samples give different results. At the constituency level the group in question is very specific and the estimate is based on very small sample sizes. Therefore, the margin of uncertainty is very large for this estimate and the figure is deemed unreliable and would not be used by the Department for Work and Pensions for practical purposes.

Social Security Benefits: Arthritis

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that patients with rheumatoid arthritis who are not able to work receive the appropriate benefit. [7132]

Chris Grayling: Employment and support allowance is paid to those who are not able to work on health or disability grounds. However, it is not paid on the basis of a specific medical condition or diagnosis. ESA is paid following assessment of an individual's capability for work. The work capability assessment (WCA) is a key aspect of ESA and is conducted by a health care professional.

Other benefits are available to support people with disabilities and health conditions, both in and out of work, including disability living allowance.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the status is of applications made for Independent Living Fund (ILF) support prior to the new criteria coming into force; and for what reasons the City of Edinburgh Council was not informed of the recent cancellation of all scheduled ILF assessment. [7079]

Maria Miller: The Independent Living Fund is currently unable to commit any further funding to new applicants, except those that have already received a formal offer of funding. All applications to the ILF which had not received a formal offer from the ILF by 17 June 2010 have been rejected.

The Independent Living Fund Social Work Director wrote to the directors of adult and children's social services at all local authorities, including the City of Edinburgh council, on 17 June explaining that no more applications could be accepted and that the Independent Living Fund would write to each applicant and their local authority representative letting them know this.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receive *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in East Lothian constituency. [7178]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table.

Employment support allowance claimants, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*ESA*	*IB/SDA*	*DLA*
East Lothian	640	3,620	5,270

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a National Insurance Credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Bristol North West constituency are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance. [7788]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

Disability living allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and employment support allowance claimants in Bristol North West parliamentary constituency: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency	*DLA*	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*
Bristol North West	5,370	4,070	680

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Caseload for DLA shows the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases reported to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline in *(a)* Stafford constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands have resulted in action being taken against claimants in the last three years. [5705]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Unemployment: Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposals in Budget 2010 on levels of economic inactivity in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Bridgend county borough council area in each of the next five years. [6103]

Chris Grayling: On 22 June the Office for Budget Responsibility published a forecast for the economy and the labour market, taking account of the Budget. This shows the number of people in work in the UK rising by 1.3 million, from 28.9 million this financial year to 30.2 million in 2015-16, with the unemployment rate falling from 8.1% of the work force to 6.1% over the same period. No specific assessment of the implications of this forecast for the labour market, including levels of economic inactivity, in Wales and Bridgend, is available.

We are introducing the Work Programme in order to provide the right support to help people who are out of work get closer to the labour market and into employment and we are reviewing benefit system incentives to assess the best ways to help people to move off benefits and into work.

In addition, we will be assessing incapacity benefit claimants through the Work Capability Assessment to make sure that the only people on incapacity benefits are those genuinely incapable of work.

Work Choice Programme

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has approved the Work Choice programme for implementation. [7403]

Maria Miller: We are committed to providing support for disabled people with the most complex barriers to employment, to help them get and keep a job.

The Work Choice programme is being considered alongside the introduction of the Work Programme and an announcement on the future of Work Choice will be made shortly.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to increase the number of new build affordable homes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry. [7732]

Andrew Stunell: We recognise that there is a continued need for affordable housing and remain committed to its provision. For example, the Coalition programme for government set out our commitment to promoting shared ownership schemes which allow first time buyers on modest incomes purchase a home. Decisions on future levels of funding for the provision of new affordable housing will be made in the spending review.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the level of availability of affordable housing in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands. [7733]

Andrew Stunell: Statistics showing the gross new supply of affordable housing by region and by local authority area are published in Live Table 1008 on the Communities and Local Government website. The table, which includes both new-build completions as well as acquisitions, can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Data are not held centrally on vacant affordable homes available for rent or sale.

Affordable Housing: Construction

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes to be sold under low cost home ownership schemes were built in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [7253]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested for the five years up to and including 2008-09 is provided in a table which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Not all low cost home ownership is provided through new build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In England in 2008-09 for example, out of 22,970 homes provided for low-cost home ownership 9,220 were acquired through the purchase of existing homes.

Council Housing: Construction

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when he expects the decision on the bid for funding for the Wood Road Local Authority New Build Scheme to be announced; and if he will make a statement; [8405]

(2) when he expects the decision on the bid for funding for the Blackthorn Road Local Authority New Build Scheme to be announced; and if he will make a statement; [8406]

(3) when he expects the decision on the bid for funding for Tenacre Lane Local Authority New Build Scheme to be announced; and if he will make a statement. [8407]

Andrew Stunell: The Homes and Communities Agency's regional teams are currently undertaking an evaluation of all projects' funding that had been put on hold including those under the local authority new build programme. Determination will be based on available resources with the aim to maximise affordable housing and achieve best value for money alongside local priorities, with completion of reviews as soon as possible.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS, on public spending control, under which budgetary headings he expects his Department to make savings of £220 million in fiscal year 2010-11. [7518]

Grant Shapps: The Government remain strongly committed to reducing the United Kingdom's budget deficit and the announcement by the Chief Secretary on 5 July 2010 confirmed that the Department has agreed to a £220 million reduction in its claim for End Year Flexibility this year. We have therefore been able to confirm £390 million of End Year Flexibility this year, alongside the £170 million announced on 24 May 2010, for the provision of new social housing and other housing priorities.

This guarantee of £560 million of funding will enable the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) to meet all existing contractual commitments and will be able to progress some of those programmes that have been paused while the funding position was under review. The HCA's regional offices will be assessing which other schemes can be progressed. Moreover given public sector borrowing in 2010-11 was forecast to hit £167 billion; such levels of spending on 'borrowed money' was unsustainable—contributing to the forecast £1.4 trillion of public debt by 2014.

First Time Buyers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to assist first-time buyers to enter the housing market. [7734]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are committed to helping those who aspire to own their own home to do so. Freeing up lending for first-time buyers and others depends above all on the return to economic and financial stability which the Government are seeking to achieve. The Government's programme of debt reduction and commitment to abolish the structural deficit in the life of this Parliament will help to keep interest rates low and improve credit availability.

The Coalition programme for government sets out our commitment to promoting shared ownership schemes, which allow first time buyers on modest incomes purchase a home. We will also be reviewing the low cost home ownership (HomeBuy) programme as a whole in the context of the comprehensive spending review.

Housing: Broadband

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the level of demand for housing in areas *(a)* with and *(b)* without access to fast broadband; and if he will make a statement. [7074]

Grant Shapps: The Government have made no formal assessment of the level of demand for housing in areas *(a)* with and *(b)* without access to fast broadband. However, as set out in the budget, the Government want to ensure that the UK has a world class telecommunications infrastructure, to help keep us at the forefront of economic competitiveness. A further commitment has been made that a broadband service of 2 Mpbs will be provided at community level. The Government also wish to support investment in new superfast broadband internet connections, including by enabling access to BT's and other utilities' existing infrastructure.

Housing: Construction

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* homes and *(b)* affordable homes were completed in each county in the East of England region in each year since 1997. [7049]

Andrew Stunell: Statistics available on the number of homes completed in each region, county and district are published on the CLG website in table 253:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1474276.xls

Information on the number of affordable homes delivered for each local authority area, including both new-build homes and acquisitions, is published in Live Table 1008 on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

Local Government Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 4-5WS, on regional strategies, what the implications are of his policy of providing local authorities with incentives to build new homes for levels of funding for local authorities which do not grant planning consents for new housing. [8157]

Grant Shapps: We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement set out our clear intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including new homes and business.

The new incentives scheme will therefore reward local authorities that choose to take action to deliver housing growth. I will set out further details on incentives in due course, but local authorities will want to take account of incentives when making decisions to grant planning permission.

Local Government: Property Transfer

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have used their power to dispose of land at less than best consideration in each year since the power was introduced. [7251]

Robert Neill: Data on all local authority land disposals at less than best consideration are not available centrally for the period since the introduction of the legislation. The revised general disposal consent issued in 2003 required authorities seeking to make disposals with an undervalue of more than two million pounds to obtain the specific consent of the Secretary of State. The local authorities that have received a specific consent of the Secretary of State since 2003 are set out as follows.

2003

L B Brent
Birmingham city council
Bracknell Forest borough council
Ashford borough council

2004

Eden district council
Kirklees MBC(2)
Basingstoke and Deane borough council
Manchester city council
Uttlesford district council

2005

LB Greenwich
Uttlesford district council
Sefton MBC (3)
Bradford MBC
Kirklees MBC

2006

Sefton MBC
LB Lewisham
Plymouth city council
Buckinghamshire county council
Tameside MBC (2)
Richmondshire district council
LB Tower Hamlets
Stockport MBC
Brighton and Hove city council

2007

Ipswich borough council
Kirklees
Leicester city council
LB Hackney
LB Enfield

2008

Carlisle city council
Coventry city council
LB Newham
LB Enfield
Aylesbury Vale district council
Sefton MBC (3)

2009

Calderdale MBC

2010

Wiltshire council
LB Barnet(2)
Bambergh district council

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in each local authority area were licensed under *(a)* mandatory, *(b)* additional and *(c)* selective licensing in each of the last five years. [5048]

Andrew Stunell: The number of mandatory licences for houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) for those local authorities that have returned figures to Communities and Local Government from July 2008 to July 2010 are shown in a table which has been deposited in the Library. Figures on licensing of HMOs for earlier years and on the number of additional and selective licensed HMOs are not available centrally.

The figures are as reported by the local authority and there are concerns about their quality and robustness. Definitive numbers of licensed HMOs are available directly from the registers held by local authorities.

Planning Obligations

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many social rented homes were built under section 106 agreements in each of the last five years; [7250]

(2) how many low cost home ownership homes were built under section 106 agreements in each of the last five years. [7252]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Provision of affordable housing funded by developer contributions through planning obligations: England[1]

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Social and intermediate rent[2,3]	11,910	14,370	15,260	15,650	20,390
Low cost home ownership	5,120	7,830	9,670	10,320	10,660
Tenure unknown[4]	1,140	1,670	900	1,150	1,240
Total	18,180	23,870	25,840	27,110	32,290

[1] Column totals may not sum as data rounded to nearest 10.
[2] May include a small amount of local authority LCHO units not separately identified.
[3] Intermediate rents are rents set above the level of social rents but below market rents and otherwise meet the definition of affordable housing.
[4] Includes affordable homes sold at a discounted level in 2004-05 and 2005-06.
Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns to CLG

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his plans are for the future use of section 106 planning powers; and if he will make a statement. [7647]

Greg Clark: We are carefully considering the future of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the related planning obligations regime (also known as s106 agreements). We will make a public announcement as soon as practicable.

Private Rented Housing: Low Incomes

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to help low-income households in receipt of housing benefit to find accommodation in the private rented sector. [7747]

Andrew Stunell: My officials will work with local authorities and the advice sector to ensure help and advice is available to households in receipts of housing benefit to find accommodation in the private rented sector. The Department for Work and Pensions is trebling its contribution to local authorities' funding for Discretionary Housing Payments, from £20 million to £60 million. This will give authorities more flexibility to provide additional support where needed, for example to provide rent deposits to help people to move to more affordable accommodation. In addition, local authority housing options services can provide advice and support to tenants on options for moving and support renegotiating their rent where possible.

Tenant Services Authority

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when the decision was taken to abolish the Tenant Services Authority; [8151]

(2) for what reasons the announcement of the Minister for Housing's decision to abolish the Tenant Services Authority was made to the media and not to Parliament. [8150]

Grant Shapps: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 397W. The review of TSA's role and purpose is ongoing.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the £200 million additional funding for Afghanistan recently announced is to be allocated to humanitarian and development assistance delivered through civilian agencies and non-governmental organisations. [6767]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently reviewing its programme for Afghanistan. The Kabul conference, scheduled for this month, will be a key point for the Afghan Government to set out their development priorities and for the international community to set out their plans to support these. We will make specific decisions on spending and focus areas in time for this event. All of the additional spending will meet the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definition for official development assistance (ODA).

Democratic Republic of Congo: Education

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to meet the Government's commitment to help fund free primary education in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [8351]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to strengthen the national education strategy and develop a three year plan. The central priority of the strategy is the achievement of universal primary education through the progressive reduction of school fees. The main activity currently funded by the UK is a national census of all teachers and mapping of all schools, to provide accurate data for policy, planning and reforms.

The Secretary of State for International Development has recently commissioned a review of DFID's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals. DFID's programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo will be reviewed as part of this process.

Departmental

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7567]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £442,501.95 on legal services in 2009-10. It is not possible to provide the information requested for preceding years without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission is DFID's only non-departmental public body. Since 1997 it has spent £5,863 on legal services, in 2004-05.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7354]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent the following amounts on refurbishments and security upgrades to buildings in the UK and overseas since 2002. It is not possible to provide the information requested for previous years without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Amount (£)
Calendar year	
2002	3,061,033
2003	[1]10,970,347
2004	4,533,262
2005	2,625,477
2006	2,257,548
2007	1,753,239
2008	1,090,392
Financial year	
2008-09	1,186,205
2009-10	1,226,186

[1] DFID's UK headquarters at Abercrombie House was refurbished in 2003.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) is DFID's only non-departmental public body. CSC does not have its own offices, but pays the secretariat at the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the British Council for admin services.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7504]

Mr Duncan: It is not possible to provide the information requested for the Department for International Development (DFID) without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), DFID's only non-departmental public body, has not purchased a television.

Departmental Expenditure

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training in each year since 1997; [7643]

(2) how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7423]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following on staff travel and related costs since 2004-05. It is not possible to provide the information requested for preceding years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Amount (£ million)*
2004-05	13.559
2005-06	12.84
2006-07	12.128
2007-08	15.488
2008-09	13.438
2009-10	12.096

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) is DFID's only non-departmental public body. CSC has no staff, but spent the following on travel for members of its board of commissioners since 1997.

Calendar year	*Amount (£)*
1997-98	9,932
1998-99	10,007
1999-2000	10,187
2000-01	13,957
2001-02	9,091
2002-03	14,148
2003-04	14,412
2004-05	14,303
2005-06	18,653
2006-07	17,807
2007-08	20,533
2008-09	23,167
2009-10	20,239

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7335]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent the following amounts on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in 2008-09 and 2009-10. It is not possible to provide the information requested for preceding years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*[1]
2008-09	26,990,838.00
2009-10	19,210,878.26

[1] Includes day-to-day ICT services, such as licences, communications, hardware and staff costs as well as expenditure on ICT projects to provide new or enhanced services to DFID.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) is DFID's only non-departmental public body. CSC pays the secretariat at the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the British Council for admin services. The secretariat provides general ICT support to CSC and the cost of this support cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. Additional expenditure on ICT projects by CSC since 1997 is provided in the following table.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2002-03	17,996
2008-09	98,750
2009-10	61,288

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7605]

Mr Duncan: I refer the hon. Member to the 'Government Internet Report' produced by the COI in June 2010, which includes costs of website design for the main website and the Research for Developments website during 2009-10. It is not possible to provide the information requested for preceding years without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission is the Department for International Development's (DFID's) only non-departmental public body. Since 1997 CSC spent £3,000 on website design in 2002-03.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7624]

Mr Duncan: It is not possible to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost. The Department for International Development (DFID) uses low energy lighting where possible in our UK offices.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7480]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £98,000 in 2009 on designing and testing the UKaid logo. It is not possible to provide the information requested for preceding years or for our offices overseas without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission is DFID's only non-departmental public body. Since 1997 CSC has spent £2,661 and £120 in 2005-06 and 2008-09 respectively on logo design.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7442]

Mr Duncan: It is not possible to provide the information requested for the Department for International Development (DFID) without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), DFID's only non-departmental public body, spent the following on hospitality since 1997.

Calendar year	*Amount (£)*
1997-98	262
1998-99	60
1999-2000	215
2000-01	989
2001-02	882
2002-03	1,211
2003-04	1,463
2004-05	1,243
2005-06	693
2006-07	1,495
2007-08	1,374
3008-09	143
2009-10	197

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7372]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £10,939,594 million on security in the UK and overseas in 2009-10. It is not possible to provide the information requested for preceding years without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) is DFID's only non-departmental public body. Since 1997 CSC spent £324 on security for a student event in 2009-10.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7461]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following on stationery since 2002-03. It is not possible to provide the information requested for preceding years or for our offices overseas without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2002-03	85,272
2003-04	89,875
2004-05	99,387
2005-06	60,699
2006-07	63,118
2007-08	64,321
2008-09	59,621
2009-10	52,303

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) is DFID's only non-departmental public body. CSC has spent the following amounts on stationery since 1997. In addition CSC pays their secretariat at the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the British Council for admin services. A proportion of these fees is spent on stationery.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
1997-98	9,577
1998-99	9,203
1999-2000	9,604
2000-01	11,364
2001-02	11,879
2002-03	13,539

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7316]

Mr Duncan: It is not possible to provide the information requested for the Department for International Development (DFID) without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, DFID's only non-departmental public body, has not spent any money on employee away days since 1997.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7586]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following amounts on electricity, water, heating and telephone services for our UK offices. We are unable to provide figures for our overseas offices without incurring disproportionate cost.

£

Financial year	*Electricity*	*Water*	*Heating*	*Telephone services*
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999-2000	151,165	n/a	30,257	n/a
2000-01	168,635	n/a	44,182	n/a
2001-02	193,067	n/a	50,217	n/a
2002-03	218,932	37,277	61,944	n/a
2003-04	282,345	49,374	63,331	n/a
2004-05	320,811	43,540	67,911	n/a
2005-06	454,478	58,899	109,635	n/a
2006-07	620,304	56,811	131,460	664,000
2007-08	573,520	62,641	103,294	633,000
2008-09	644,079	47,944	121,423	603,000
2009-10	664,422	48,411	101,356	595,000

n/a = not available

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) is DFID's only non-departmental public body. CSC has spent the following amounts on telephone services since

1997. CSC pays the secretariat at the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the British Council for admin services.

Financial year	*Telephone services (£)*
1997-98	2,993
1998-99	2,528
1999-2000	2,056
2000-01	2,045
2001-02	1,238
2002-03	1,632
2003-04	2,521
2004-05	1,385
2005-06	952
2006-07	495
2007-08	1,503
2008-09	1,483
2009-10	-418

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much overseas development aid and assistance is planned to be provided by *(a)* other Government departments and *(b)* agencies of other Government departments in 2010-11; [6734]

(2) which *(a)* other Government departments and *(b)* agencies of other Government departments will contribute to overseas development aid and assistance in 2010-11. [6736]

Mr O'Brien: This will be set out in the spending review later this year. As laid out in 'The Coalition: our programme for government', the Government

> "will stick to the rules laid down by the OECD about what spending counts as aid."

Forests: Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is giving to carbon finance mechanism pilot projects to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation. [6928]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is contributing £15 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Forum (FCPF), which will work in a few pilot countries to test a carbon finance mechanism through a Carbon Fund. This fund is due to be launched by the end of 2010.

Gambia: Overseas Aid

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what development programmes in the Gambia his Department *(a)* is running and *(b)* plans to run in future years. [6899]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) programme in the Gambia currently focuses on support for empowering civil society organisations, building the capacity of the legal sector and basic education. The programme is due to finish in 2011.

DFID contributes to multilaterals such as the European Commission, the United Nations and regional development banks which have their own programmes in the Gambia. All UK multilateral and bilateral spending is under review.

South Africa: Football

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking in relation to the situation in South Africa involving the clearance of unauthorised dwellings by the Red Ants in preparation for the World Cup. [6818]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

We are aware of recent press reports about enforced removal of South African citizens from informal settlements. We understand that there is no policy in South Africa to remove the visible signs of poverty either ahead of or during the World Cup. But the South African Government are taking steps to meet their targets to provide better housing for South Africans. Staff at our high commission in Pretoria and at our consulate general in Cape Town are following these reports closely and remain in touch with the South African Government and local non-governmental organisations focussing on housing issues.

UN Millennium Development Goals: Meetings

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in advance of the Millennium Development Goals Review summit in September 2010. [6733]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government supported the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) in producing "What Will it Take to Achieve the MDGs? An International Assessment". This report was published on 17 June and makes an assessment of progress based on over 50 country studies. It also sets out an integrated package of eight priorities for action to achieve the millennium development goals by 2015 which the UK Government fully supports. The report can be accessed at:

http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=2620072

HEALTH

Cancer: Health Education

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what mechanisms other than the Change4Life programme his Department plans to change the *(a)* physical, *(b)* economic and *(c)* social environment to assist people to (i) choose a healthy diet, (ii) increase their physical activity levels and (iii) maintain a healthy weight to reduce their risk of cancer; and if he will make a statement. [7543]

Anne Milton: The Government will be publishing a White Paper on public health later this year. This will set out how to assist people in improving their health and reducing risk of disease, including cancer.

Cancer: Research

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has spent on funding *(a)* research and *(b)* education programmes on the links between cancer and (i) diet, (ii) physical activity levels and (iii) weight in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [7544]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medical Research Council (MRC) support a broad portfolio of research on cancer and on the effects on human health of diet, physical activity levels and weight.

The MRC Centre for Nutritional Epidemiology in Cancer Prevention and Survival was launched in 2006 with a £2.5 million award to the University of Cambridge to fund research into the impact of diet on cancer. The centre provides international leadership in research in the epidemiology and molecular origins of the dietary causes of cancer. It will build on findings from the European Prospective Investigation of Cancer (EPIC) and provide compelling scientific evidence to help underpin intervention studies, public health advice and clinical guidance on treatment. Research infrastructure in England for EPIC is provided through the NIHR Clinical Research Network.

The Food Standards Agency has commissioned research investigating the role of dietary components in preventing diseases of the colon under the N12 Diet and Colonic Health research programme. Total spend over the last three years has been £957,167.

The Department has not funded any education programmes specifically on the links between cancer and diet, physical activity and weight. The focus of the 'Change for Life' programme is on supporting behaviour change relating to diet and physical activity.

Care Quality Commission: Fees and Charges

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will require the Care Quality Commission to commence its public consultation on its future fees structure prior to 30 September 2010; [8358]

(2) which criteria will govern the fee charging structure of the Care Quality Commission in relation to charitable organisations with effect from April 2011. [8359]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission intends to consult on its proposals for registration fees that will apply from April 2011 in the autumn. Any final proposals for registration fees will be subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for Health.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7151]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently in the process of identifying regulations for review. The current focus is on those regulations which impact on the private sector.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7466]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department and most of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies order the majority of their stationery requirements via the Department's central contract for stationery. The following table sets out the expenditure via the central contract in this area from April 2005 to March 2010. The figures quoted do not include the Department's spend on stationery which may be purchased in exceptional cases via another route; for example, a member of staff paying for an item of stationery required at short notice and claiming back the money spent as a business expense. There are no central records held for these types of purchases and to provide this information would be at disproportionate cost.

Information prior to April 2005 was not held centrally.

£

	Department	*Agencies and non-departmental public bodies*
April 2005 to March 2006	896,043.40	712,133.54
April 2006 to March 2007	898,749.77	767,201.87
April 2007 to March 2008	470,188.38	481,407.41
April 2008 to March 2009	539,493.25	364,078.36
April 2009 to March 2010	507,459.90	145,889.17

Diseases: EU Action

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to implement the provisions of the Council Recommendation for a European Action on rare diseases (2009/C 151/02). [7108]

Anne Milton: The Department is working with the Devolved Administrations and key interest groups to develop a plan for rare disease by 2013 in line with the Council's recommendation.

Food: Labelling

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to enforce clearer food labelling to raise public awareness of the use of trans fats in the food industry. [6813]

Anne Milton: The Government support the provisions in the European Commission's proposed food information regulation which would allow industry to voluntarily declare the trans fat content of food products.

Negotiations are ongoing in the European Union on the food information regulations. The exact content of these is unlikely to be agreed before the end of 2011.

General Practitioners

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the *(a)* maximum and *(b)* minimum size will be of GP commissioning boards; [7038]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the numbers of staff of each grade who will service GP commissioning boards. [7042]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" published on the 12 July 2010, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board.

A further document setting out these proposals in more detail will be issued shortly, providing the basis for a full engagement with primary care professionals, patients and the public.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research projects involving genetically-modified *(a)* food and *(b)* feed have been funded by the Food Standards Agency since 1997; what the (i) topic, (ii) cost, (iii) start date and (iv) project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such research projects have been completed to date. [8026]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has commissioned work under three research programmes relevant to the safety of genetically modified (GM) foods. Prior to April 2000 food safety research was the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF). The research funded by the FSA and MAFF has included a series of projects aimed at either better understanding the consequences of the genetic modification of plants, or exploring new/improved methods for use in the safety assessment of genetically modified organisms such as metabolomics and genomics. The relevant programme codes are G01, G02 and G03 and details of the individual projects commissioned by MAFF and the FSA are available on the research pages of the FSA's website at:

http://www.food.gov.uk/science/research/
foodcomponentsresearch/novelfoodsresearch/

The total cost of the research funded by MAFF and the FSA into issues related to GM food safety from 1999 to date is £11.2 million.

During this period the FSA has commissioned one further project on GM animal feed. This project (reference F01004) examined the fate of DNA from GM plants in dairy cattle and was carried out at the university of Reading's centre for dairy research between January 2001 and September 2003. The cost of this project was £56,759 and the final report is publicly available.

IVF and Abortion

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* IVF and *(b)* abortion services (i) nationally and (ii) by each primary care trust in the last 12 months. [7267]

Anne Milton: The costs of in vitro fertilisation treatment to the national health service, either nationally or by primary care trust (PCT) is not held centrally.

The cost to the NHS of abortions performed in NHS hospitals in 2008-09 was £82.1 million. The NHS funds abortions undertaken by approved independent sector places under contract to individual PCTs. Information on these contracts is commercially sensitive and is not collected centrally.

Lobbying

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy that organisations in receipt of funding from his Department should not lobby his Department. [8167]

Mr Burstow: It is not policy that organisations in receipt of funding from the Department should refrain from lobbying the Department. Anyone, including the public, can lobby hon. Members and peers; this is part of the relationship between the state and its citizens in a democracy. The Department funds around £115 billion of resources for health and social care (in England) and we expect to discuss and debate the policies for which these funds are allocated with stakeholders and the manner in which valuable front line services are delivered.

Voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises across the country do extraordinary work every day to improve the lives of others. One of the key principles of the 'Compact on the Relations between Government and the Third Sector in England' is to recognise and support the independence of the third sector; including the right within the law to campaign, to comment on and to challenge Government policy (whatever funding relationship exists). To ensure that we can make the most of the sector's potential, an open, honest and transparent relationship with the Department is essential.

Medical Treatments

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* process and *(b)* timeline is for review of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. [8047]

Mr Simon Burns: These are matters for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence as an independent body. Details of the Institute's clinical guidelines review process are available at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/631/E2/
The_guidelines_manual_2009_-
_Chapter_14_Updating_clinical_guidelines_and_correcting_errors.pdf

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines are overdue for review; and what the reason is for the time taken to complete each such review. [8049]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department. I have asked the chief executive of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to write to the hon. Member with this information.

Multiple Sclerosis: Medical Treatments

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that the National Institute for Health and Clinical

Excellence clinical guideline on multiple sclerosis is updated to *(a)* reflect the changes to the evidence base for the best care for people living with multiple sclerosis and *(b)* take into account all new treatments and drugs for this condition. [8048]

Mr Simon Burns: We understand that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence routinely takes such factors into account when reviewing its clinical guidelines.

National Diet and Nutrition Survey

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the contribution of the National Diet and Nutrition Survey programme to his Department's policies; and when he plans to announce his Department's future expenditure on that programme. [7197]

Anne Milton: The results of the National Diet and Nutrition Survey are used to develop nutrition policy and to inform Government advice on nutrition. The Department will be publishing a White Paper on public health later this year and the findings from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey will also be used to inform the development of this White Paper.

National Specialised Services Advisory Group

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the remit is of the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services. [7107]

Mr Simon Burns: The role of the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services will be to advise on:

which services and technologies should be nationally commissioned;

which centres should provide them;

the annual budget for nationally commissioned services and technologies; and

the high level strategy for nationally commissioned services and technologies.

NHS Trusts: Marketing

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* Enfield Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust spent on (i) marketing and (ii) internal and external communications in each of the last five years. [7727]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Pay

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the highest 100 salaries of employees and officials of the National Health Service were in 2009-10. [5504]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service staff earnings estimates are published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. The published information covers earnings of medical staff and only those non-medical staff under Agenda for Change contractual arrangements. Reliable information on the highest 100 salaries in the NHS is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The most recent NHS Staff Earnings survey was published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care on 17 June 2010. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Nutrition: EU Law

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have made to the European Commission on the provision of guidance by the European Food Safety Authority to small and medium-sized businesses on submitting claims applications under Article 13.1 of the EU Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation; [7414]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the EU Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation on *(a)* the UK food industry, *(b)* the UK natural health food products and *(c)* small and medium-sized businesses. [7415]

Anne Milton: Food Standards Agency (FSA) officials have continued to push the European Commission to meet the requirements in Regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims to make available technical guidance and tools to assist small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in the preparation and presentation of applications for assessment of health claims by the European Food Safety Authority.

An impact assessment of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006 on the United Kingdom food industry, including natural health food producers and SMEs was published in 2007. The document is available on the FSA website, at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/nhcenwa07.pdf

Patient Responsibility

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to meet the Government's objective of increasing patient responsibility. [8084]

Anne Milton: We will set out plans for a new public health service in a White Paper in December based on the three pillars of national strategy, local leadership and individual responsibility. To promote people's responsibility for their own health, the Government will seek to provide the right information, create the right environment to incentivise healthy options and build social momentum behind positive behaviour change.

Prescription Drugs

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations were made by those opposed to the introduction of automatic generic substitution during his Department's consultation; and if he will make a statement; [8147]

(2) how many responses to his Department's consultation on the proposed introduction of automatic generic substitution *(a)* were opposed to its introduction, *(b)* expressed reservations and *(c)* were in support; [8148]

(3) how many of those who attended each of his Department's public consultation meetings on

automatic generic substitution *(a)* expressed concerns about the proposals, *(b)* were opposed and *(c)* were in favour. [8149]

Mr Simon Burns: Responses to the consultation are currently being considered. In accordance with the "Code of Practice on Consultation", a summary of responses and the Department's response to the consultation, including next steps, will be published in due course.

Primary Health Care

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department plans to take to encourage people to undertake self-care for minor ailments; [8085]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to make information available at GP surgeries to people on looking after their own health and wellbeing where appropriate in relation to minor ailments. [8086]

Mr Burstow: The Department fully supports a greater focus on self-care. With proper support from the national health service and health professionals such as general practitioners and pharmacists, people can take more responsibility for their own health and well-being.

Community pharmacy continues to increase access to self care for all sections of the population, but especially for people from deprived communities—being more conveniently situated in the local community and open later and longer than many other conventional health facilities. Every day community pharmacies provide advice and sell over-the-counter medicines, where appropriate, for people presenting to pharmacies for minor ailments and injuries.

The NHS Choices and NHS Direct websites include information on health and well-being to help people understand the importance of self-care and when to seek advice from health professionals This includes online symptom checkers and self-assessment tools, such as NHS MidLifeCheck and the Information Prescriptions (IP) Service which enables people to create tailored IPs on specific conditions and their treatment, management and support options.

A personalised care planning discussion with a healthcare professional encourages people with long-term conditions to self care through a process of shared decision making, goal setting and action planning. A personalised care plan pulls together all the information an individual needs to manage their own health, including signposting to further sources of advice and support. A patient information leaflet is available to help people understand self care support and what to expect from personalised care planning and their care plan.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many sexually transmitted infections were diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine clinics in England in each of the last five years; [7126]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of sexually transmitted infections which were diagnosed at *(a)* Waverley Sexual Health Clinic, St Albans and *(b)* genito-urinary medicine clinics in Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [7138]

Anne Milton: Information on the number of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed in genitor-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England is published in "All new STI episodes seen at GUM clinics in the UK: 1999-2008" (Data are represented by country, gender and sexual orientation), a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

No estimate has been made on the number of STIs diagnosed at clinic level. Owing to small cell sizes and risk of deductive disclosure, clinic level data on STI diagnoses are not published. Data on STI diagnoses are not currently available by primary care trust (PCT) of residence but are available by strategic health authority (SHA). This information is published in "All new STI episodes seen at GUM clinics in England: 1999-2008" (Data are represented by SHA, gender and sexual orientation), a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The STI data are grouped in this document by the 10 SHAs, which include the East of England SHA. The data for 2009 will be published on 21 July 2010 and will be available by PCT.

Sickle Cell Diseases

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department took to mark the United Nations World Sickle Cell Day on 19 June 2010; [6727]

(2) what *(a)* recent steps have been taken and *(b)* steps he plans to take to raise public awareness of sickle cell disease and thalassaemia, with particular reference to (i) screening and (ii) reducing stigma associated with these conditions. [6728]

Mr Burstow: The Department has funded the national health service sickle cell and thalassaemia screening programme since 2001 to develop and implement a linked antenatal and newborn screening programme. Both antenatal and newborn screening has now been implemented throughout England. The profile of the conditions continues to rise due to the success of the screening programme.

One of the key aims of the programme is to raise awareness of the conditions—both among the public and health care professionals—challenge stigma and ensure that screening is acceptable to at-risk communities. The programme has rolled out an extensive programme to engage the public in areas with a high prevalence of sickle cell and thalassaemia. This has been evaluated and the programme is planning to continue and extend this work. It is also using its experience working with the public to develop materials to specifically engage men in the screening journey.

The Department does not usually take any steps to mark the United Nations World Sickle Cell Day.

Smoking

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will *(a)* conduct and *(b)* commission research on changes to (i) the prevalence of tobacco use and (ii) the incidence of lung cancer in (A) the UK and (B) Sweden in each of the last 10 years. [8168]

Anne Milton: We have no plans to commission such research, as data of this type are already available.

Data from the United Kingdom and other European member states, including Sweden, on smoking-related mortality and premature mortality from cancer are available in the Department's publication 'Health Profile of England 2009'. A copy has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_114561

Data on smoking prevalence in Great Britain are in the Office for National Statistics publication 'General Lifestyle Survey 2008: Smoking and Drinking Among Adults, 2008'. This has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=5756

Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display) (England) Regulations 2010

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to revoke the Tobacco Authority and Promotion (Display) (England) Regulations 2010. [8169]

Anne Milton: Smoking is the biggest preventable cause of death in England. Discussions are taking place across Government to decide how best to tackle this issue in the context of our focus on public health, and our priorities given the challenges facing business competition and costs.

These considerations include the policy on display of tobacco products and sales from tobacco vending machines.

West Kent Primary Care Trust: Homeopathy

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS homeopathic treatment by West Kent Primary Care Trust in each of the last five years. [6844]

Anne Milton: Data on spending on homeopathic services as a whole are not routinely collected by the Department.

The hon. Gentleman may wish to contact the Chair of West Kent Primary Care Trust directly for further information.

PRIME MINISTER

Answers received for publication on Monday 12 July 2010

Afghanistan

Mr Spellar: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 484W, on Afghanistan, how many organisations accepted the invitation to accompany him on this visit. [6365]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 484W.

Departmental Petitions

Kate Hoey: To ask the Prime Minister when the 10 Downing street e-petition system will be operational; and if he will make a statement. [6494]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the information on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/communicate/e-petitions

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Prime Minister which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his office and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches. [7395]

The Prime Minister: Speechwriting is co-ordinated by my private office with input from others as appropriate.

Kazakhstan: Foreign Visits

John Mann: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to visit Kazakhstan. [6623]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 20 May 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr D. Moody. [6341]

The Prime Minister: A reply has been sent.

New School Network

Mr Watson: To ask the Prime Minister who was invited to attend the New School Network reception held at 10 Downing street on 30 June 2010. [6466]

The Prime Minister: Information on official and charity receptions held at 10 Downing street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 July 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7513]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has spent £295 on televisions.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred no cost since 12 April.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7344]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has not incurred any costs on information and communication technology.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred a cost of £2,227 since 12 April.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7489]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department and its non-departmental public body have incurred no expenditure in this area. The NIO has no agencies.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7381]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has spent £35,205 on security.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred a cost of £221 since 12 April.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7470]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has spent £1,970 on stationery.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred a cost of £903 since 12 April.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997. [7325]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has incurred no expenditure on employee awaydays.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred no cost on awaydays since 12 April

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training since 1997. [7655]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has spent £1,173 on training.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred a cost of £3,205 since 12 April.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7432]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) transferred responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has spent £125,319 on travel.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred a cost of £2,457 since 12 April.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7595]

Mr Paterson: On 12 April 2010 the Northern Ireland Office transferred responsibility for Policing and Justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available.

Since 12 April the Department has incurred the following costs in the requested areas:

(i) electricity £35,889;

(ii) water £1,768;

(iii) heating £18,299;

(iv) telephone services £115,066.

The NIO has no agencies. It has one non-departmental public body which has incurred the following costs since 12 April:

(i) electricity £70;

(ii) water £830;

(iii) heating £352;

(iv) telephone services £2,311.

TREASURY

Departmental Accountancy

Derek Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of which public expenditure projects his Department was notified that letters of Ministerial direction had been issued to departmental permanent secretaries in each of the last three years. [8050]

Justine Greening: The information sought is set out as follows.

	Department	*Minister*	*Direction*	*Category*
2008	BERR (now BIS)	Right hon. John Hutton MP	Launch Investment	VFM
2008	MOD	Right hon. Des Browne MP	Remploy Procurement	VFM
2008	HMT	Right hon. Alistair Darling MP	Landsbanki	VFM
2009	BERR (now BIS)	Lord Mandelson	Icelandic Water Trawlermen Scheme	VFM
2009	BERR (now BIS)	Lord Mandelson	Advantage West Midlands Loan	VFM
2009	MOD	Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP	Repatriation Flights for UK Hostages in Iraq	Propriety
2009	MOD	Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP	Repatriation Flights for UK Hostages in Iraq	Propriety
2009	DEFRA	Right hon. Hilary Benn MP	Dairy Farmers of Britain	VFM
2009	BERR (now BIS)	Lord Mandelson	Leeds Arena Project	VFM
2009	BERR (now BIS)	Lord Mandelson	Car Scrappage Scheme	VFM
2009	BERR (now BIS)	Lord Mandelson	Car Scrappage Scheme	VFM
Date	Department	Minister	Direction	Category
2009	HMT	Right hon. Alistair Darling MP	Asset Protection Scheme	Propriety
2010	DCLG	Right hon. John Denham MP	Proposals for new unitary local Government structures for Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk	VFM
2010	MOJ	Right hon. Jack Straw MP	Pleural Plaques	Regularity and VFM
2010	MOD	Right hon. Bob Ainsworth MP	Basra memorial wall dedication ceremony	VFM
2010	BIS	Lord Mandelson	North West Development Agency's funding for Blackpool Leisure Assets	VFM

	Department	*Minister*	*Direction*	*Category*
2010	DCLG	Right hon. John Denham MP	North West Development Agency's funding for Blackpool Leisure Assets	VFM

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5718]

Justine Greening: Out of Treasury's arm's-length bodies, the Royal Mint Advisory Committee is a non-departmental public body. Its contact address Llantrisant, Pontyclun, CF72 8YT.

Finance Bill 2010-11

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the contribution of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 205, on the Finance Bill, what the statistical source was of the forecast in respect of further convergence. [7825]

Danny Alexander: Convergence is a mathematical property of the Barnett formula exhibited under certain conditions, particularly when departmental spending is growing. Table 2.3 in the Budget sets out falling implied departmental expenditure limit totals over the course of the spending review period.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people not liable to pay tax at the 50 pence higher rate subject to marginal deduction rates of over *(a)* 60, *(b)* 70, *(c)* 80 and *(d)* 90 per cent. in (i) (A) 2011 and (B) 2012-13 under the proposals in the June 2010 budget and (ii) (1) 2011-12 and (2) 2012-13 under the proposals in the March 2010 budget. [7822]

Mr Gauke: Annex A of the June 2010 Budget provides estimates of the numbers of families subject to marginal deduction rates (MDR) of over 60, 70, 80, 90% in 2010-11 and 2011-12 under proposals in the March 2010 and June 2010 Budgets. The footnote to this table states that rates are estimated for families in receipt of income-related benefits or tax credits, and hence those facing a 50% income tax rate are not included. Consistent with previous Budgets, MDR estimates have been set out for the forthcoming tax year only.

Insurance: Construction

Mr Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints the *(a)* Financial Services Authority and *(b)* Financial Ombudsman Service has received on the Federation of Master Builders Masterbond warranty scheme in each of the last 10 years. [3865]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 22 June 2010]:* Both the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) are operationally independent of Government.

The Financial Services Authority does not investigate complaints about firms from individual consumers, that is role of the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Every six months, the FOS publishes data on individual financial businesses where it has received at least 30 new cases and resolved at least 30 cases relating to the business during the period. The FOS does not comment separately on the overall performance of individual businesses.

Public Expenditure

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the full-year effect is of reductions in the revenue expenditure of each department announced by his Department. [7676]

Danny Alexander: The reductions to Resource Departmental Expenditure Limits (RDEL) for 2010-11 from the £6.2 billion of cuts announced on 24 May are set out in table 3.7 of the recent Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2010:

Department	*RDEL Reduction (£ million)*
Education	671
Transport	290
Communities and Local Government	455
Local Government	325
Business, Innovation and Skills	295
Home Office	323
Justice	142
Law Officers' Departments	17
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	50
Energy and Climate Change	14
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	97
Culture, Media and Sport	49
Work and Pensions	493
Chancellor's Departments	101
Cabinet Office	73

In addition the Devolved Administrations will have the option of making savings this year or deferring their share of the savings, which total £699 million (capital and resource), until the next financial year.

The announcements on 17 June on project reapprovals, and on 5 July on unfunded spending commitments, will not reduce 2010-11 RDEL.

Public Finance

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the full-year effect on departmental revenue budgets is of changes to departments' capital programmes proposed by his Department. [7678]

Danny Alexander: The reductions to Capital Departmental Expenditure Limits (CDEL) for 2010-11 from the £6.2 billion of cuts announced on 24 May are set out in table 3.8 of the recent Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2010:

Department	*CDEL Reduction (£ million)*
Education	0
Transport	399
Communities and Local Government	166
Local Government	79
Business, Innovation and Skills	343
Home Office	35
Justice	182
Law Officers' Departments	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	5
Energy and Climate Change	70
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	64
Culture, Media and Sport	22
Work and Pensions	52
Chancellor's Departments	30
Cabinet Office	6

In addition the Devolved Administrations will have the option of making savings this year or deferring their share of the savings, which total £699 million (capital and resource), until the next financial year.

The announcements on 17 June on project reapprovals, and on 5 July on unfunded spending commitments, will not reduce 2010-11 CDEL.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to ensure that air tax exemptions for the Highlands and Islands are maintained in implementing his proposals to replace air passenger duty with a per-plane tax; [6295]

(2) what consultation his Department plans to undertake in the Highlands and Islands on his proposals to replace air passenger duty with a per-plane tax; [6296]

(3) whether he plans to review the military exemptions from air passenger duty; [6297]

(4) whether his proposals for a per-plane tax will apply to cargo flights operating within the Highlands and Islands region. [6298]

Justine Greening: The Budget announced that the Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system, including switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty, which could encourage fuller planes. Major changes will be subject to consultation.

Taxation: PFI

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of bringing forward proposals to change the rules on private finance initiatives (PFI) to require all PFI contractors to pay full tax in the UK. [8136]

Danny Alexander: All PFI companies are contractually committed to deliver their service subject to the UK tax regime.

Government's policy in this area is set out in annex 4.4 of Managing Public Money which may be found in the public spending and reporting section of the Treasury website.

VAT

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* commission research on and *(b)* make an estimate of the (i) effect on the economy and (ii) likely level of Exchequer receipts consequent on the setting of a higher rate of value added tax for luxury goods. [7060]

Mr Gauke: Since the late 1970s European VAT law setting out the principles according to which VAT is to be applied does not provide for a higher rate of VAT.

In 1977 the 6th VAT directive on VAT was signed. Its purpose was to harmonise the principles on which the tax was to be applied throughout the then EEC. The directive limited the number of rates to a single standard rate with up to two reduced rates on a specified list of supplies. This prohibits the UK having a higher rate of VAT on specific items. There were derogations, including our zero rates.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of expenditure on the national concessionary bus fares scheme in each of the next five years. [6896]

Norman Baker: The following forecast is for expenditure by travel concession authorities on concessionary travel for older and disabled people. This includes spend on discretionary concessions offered by local authorities, as well as spend on the statutory national scheme. The forecast assumes eligible age for the scheme rises in line with the rising female pension age, as has already been committed.

As part of a package of reforms, it was announced in the pre-Budget report that savings in how the scheme operates could be explored—in particular whether savings could be made through a more efficient method by which travel concession authorities reimburse bus operators. This work is now being taken forward as part of the spending review. These potential savings have therefore not been included in the forecast.

	£ million
2010-11	1,080
2011-12	1,089
2012-13	1,108
2013-14	1,132
2014-15	1,157

Crossrail

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected date is for completion of the Crossrail spur to *(a)* Maidenhead and *(b)* Abbey Wood; and when the current proposed Crossrail network will be completed. [6577]

Mrs Villiers: The planned date for commencement of Crossrail operations remains 2017 with current plans for all Crossrail works on the committed scheme due for completion by 2017.

Crossrail Line: Kent

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the planned timetable is for the completion of work on the Crossrail Abbey Wood spur. [4050]

Mrs Villiers: The precise construction phasing for aspects of the Crossrail project, including the Abbey Wood spur, is yet to be finalised. The planned date for commencement of Crossrail operations is 2017.

Cycling: Safety

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget was of Cycle England in each of the last five years; and how much of that budget was spent on encouraging cyclists to wear cycle helmets. [7771]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* Cycling England was created in March 2005 with an annual budget of £5 million (2005-06). That was subsequently increased to £10 million for 2006-07 and in 2007-08 the budget was further increased to £20 million, rising to £60 million in 2009-10. For 2010-11 the budget was reduced from £60 million to £58 million by the last Administration.

There is no specific Cycling England programme to encourage cycle helmet wearing. However a number of programmes funded by Cycling England give advice on cycle helmet wearing, such as Bikeability training.

Cycling: Schools

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to increase provision of cycling training in schools. [4983]

Norman Baker: The delivery of cycle training in schools rests with local highway authorities. To assist increased provision of cycle training in England, the Department for Transport has awarded grants to local authorities in 2010-11 for "Bikeability" training of just over £6 million. We are also providing £5 million to schools through School Sports Partnerships in England to provide further Bikeability training opportunities. £500,000 is also available in 2010-11 to provide bursary grants for training new instructors (£300 bursary per trainer) and assistant instructors (£150 bursary per trainer) to help meet the increased demand for Bikeability training.

Future Government funding for cycle training will be considered as part of the current spending review.

Driving: Safety

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the number of people who drive *(a)* while using a mobile telephone, *(b)* without wearing a seat belt, *(c)* while disqualified and *(d)* without insurance; and if he will make a statement. [5440]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport monitors the number of drivers who are convicted each year of these offences and works with the police and other Government Departments on the most effective enforcement of road traffic law. If the evidence suggests it is necessary, the Department will consider taking additional measures to achieve compliant driver behaviour.

First Capital Connect

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the performance of First Capital Connect in meeting its *(a)* rail franchise obligations and *(b)* targets; and if he will make a statement. [7094]

Mrs Villiers: Under its franchise agreement, First Capital Connect is required to report its delivery against its operational franchise obligations and performance targets at the end of each rail industry period, the latest period being 30 May to 26 June 2010. This performance is then assessed by officials in the Department for Transport and action taken as required.

First Capital Connect are currently meeting their operational performance target in the franchise agreement. Their public performance measure in the latest period was 90.4%.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars the Government Car and Despatch Agency has sold since 6 May 2010. [8270]

Mike Penning: The Government Car and Despatch Agency has sold 14 cars since 6 May 2010.

Railways

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evaluation of proposed improvements to the rail strategic network he plans to undertake prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review. [7832]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are currently looking at a wide range of options as part of the spending review process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Public Expenditure

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether equality impact assessments will be used in determining the areas of his Department's budget in respect of which spending will be reduced. [8340]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is considering the equality impacts of all its spending review proposals as plans develop.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7148]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for a wide range of regulations; by necessity the Department is constantly reviewing regulations in relation to delivering its business. Details of those specific regulations currently under review could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* the UK are in receipt of (i) the mobility component, (ii) the care component and (iii) both the care and mobility components of disability living allowance. [6072]

Maria Miller: The information requested is in the following table:

DLA cases in payment: Wansbeck parliamentary constituency, November 2009

	All	*Care component only*	*Mobility component only*	*Both Care and mobility component*
All cases	3,119,010	407,880	497,710	2,213,420
Wansbeck	5,400	580	1,140	3,680

Notes:

1. Caseload: Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. Parliamentary Constituency: Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
3. A small number of DLA cases are not resident in Britain. The total of both invalid and non-British addresses amounts to 3,240 cases. Geographical area for aggregated statistical analysis is determined by matching customers' postcodes to an ONS supplied postcode directory which gives a number of standard geographies. If a customer's record does not have a valid postcode then no area code is allocated. Customers with addresses abroad do not have British postcodes and therefore are not matched to a British area code. For statistical purposes these two groups of cases have no British area code allocated and cannot be separated on National Statistics data sets for analysis. The total of both British cases without valid postcodes and addresses abroad amounts to 3,240 cases out of the total caseload of 3.12 million.
4. Figures are given for Great Britain rather then the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland Benefits are administered by Northern Ireland Social Security Agency.

Definitions and Conventions:

Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; Some additional disclosure control has also been applied; Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Ethnic Minority Employment Taskforce is next due to meet; what its role is; and if he will make a statement. [7534]

Chris Grayling: The coalition Government are committed to improving opportunities for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. The Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force was set up in 2003 to drive forward strategies designed to ensure ethnic minorities no longer face disproportionate barriers to achievement in the labour market. Task Force membership includes Ministers from all key departments as this multi-dimensional issue requires a cross-governmental approach.

It has not been possible for the Task Force to meet since the general election, however, updates on the work agenda together with minutes of every meeting can be found on the Task Force's website:

http://www.emetaskforce.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive: Expenditure

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Health and Safety Executive's budget was in each year from 1997 to 2009. [8016]

Chris Grayling: The answer is provided in the table.

HSE net resource outturns 1997-98 to 2008-09

Financial year	*HSE (£000)*
1997-98	178,600
1998-99	177,500
1999-2000	182,300
2000-01	189,400
2001-02	203,301
2002-03	202,276
2003-04	197,909
2004-05	215,544
2005-06[1]	239,005
2006-07[2]	233,622
2007-08[3]	215,121
2008-09	219,234
2009-10	229,931

[1] The 2005-06 outturn has been restated to reflect the transfer of responsibility for rail regulation from HSE to the Office of Rail Regulation on 1 April 2006 but the figures from 1997-98 to 2004-05 have not been restated.

[2] The 2006-07 outturn has been restated to reflect: the transfer of the Office for Civil Nuclear Security and the UK Safeguards Office to HSE on 1 April 2007; and the change in treatment of non-retainable income in accordance with HM Treasury's guidance. Figures from previous years have not been restated.

[3] The 2007-08 outturn figures have been restated to reflect: the transfer of Pesticides Safety Directorate to HSE on 1 April 2008 and the capitalisation of software licenses. The merger of the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) with HSE on 1 April 2008, is also reflected in the restated outturn figures for 2007-08. Figures from 1997-98 to 2008-09 include the aggregated cost of HSC and HSE.

Health and Safety Executive: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many inspectors were employed by the Health and Safety Executive in each year from 1997 to 2009. [7813]

Chris Grayling: The answer is provided in the table.

At 1 April	*Number of inspectors*[1]
1997	1,442
1998	1,437
1999	1,497
2000	1,508
2001	1,534
2002	1,625
2003	1,651
2004	1,605
2005	1,530
2006	[2]1,444
2007	1,440
2008	1,366
2009	1,469
2010	1,517

[1] All figures are for full-time equivalents, rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] The number and that for the subsequent years excludes 95 inspectors (full-time equivalents) that moved from HSE to the Office of Rail Regulation when responsibility for rail regulation health and safety matters transferred on 1 April 2006.

Industrial Health and Safety

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology his Department uses to monitor public attitudes towards health and safety legislation. [8019]

Chris Grayling: Since 2004 the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has commissioned an annual suite of complementary surveys to measure attitudes towards (and awareness of) health and safety at work. In 2009, these surveys targeted three distinct groups: employees, workplace health and safety managers and chief executive officers or senior directors of medium and large businesses and public sector bodies. The latter two surveys include questions that measure attitudes towards health and safety requirements.

I have arranged for a copy of the 2009 survey report to be placed in the Library.

In addition to the annual monitoring of attitudes towards health and safety through this survey programme, ad-hoc evaluation studies may also capture attitudes towards specific health and safety legislation of particular groups at a fixed point in time.

Industrial Injuries

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workplace injuries there were in each year from 1997 to 2009. [8020]

Chris Grayling: The best estimate of the overall number of injuries to workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Data are also available from notifications of workplace injuries that are made under RIDDOR—the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. This latter dataset only includes accidents that result in hospital admission or an absence from work of over three days and is subject to the drawback that there is considerable underreporting. However, it has a wider coverage than the LFS, as it covers not only workers but also members of the public that are injured in accidents connected to work activities. The following table provides estimates from the LFS for workers and the total number of RIDDOR injury notifications for the period 1996-97 to 2008-09.

	Estimated incidence of self-reported workplace injuries from the LFS	*Total count of RIDDOR injuries to workers and members of the public*
1996-97	[1]—	195,236
1997-98	[1]—	195,055
1998-99	[1]—	186,619
1999-2000	1,051,000	191,143
2000-01	1,058,000	184,546
2001-02	1,007,000	174,990
2002-03	1,026,000	171,743
2003-04	949,000	178,392
2004-05	880,000	169,533
2005-06	833,000	166,971
2006-07	851,000	163,972
2007-08	817,000	159,712
2008-09	726,000	*157,835

[1] Comparable data is not available from the LFS for the 1996-97 to 1998-99.

Note:

The annual basis of RIDDOR recording is the planning year from 1 April to 31 March. Data for 2008-09 is provisional, denoted by '*'.

Source:

Labour Force Survey and RIDDOR

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workers incurred a workplace injury in each year from 1997 to 2009. [8022]

Chris Grayling: The best estimate of the overall number of injuries to workers comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Data are also available from notifications of workplace injuries that are made under RIDDOR—the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. This latter dataset only includes accidents that result in hospital admission or an absence from work of over three days and is subject to the drawback that there is considerable underreporting. The following table provides the figures from the LFS and RIDDOR regarding injuries to workers for the period 1996-97 to 2008-09.

	Estimated incidence of self-reported workplace injuries from the LFS	*Total count of RIDDOR injuries to workers*
1996-97	[1]—	159,175
1997-98	[1]—	166,049
1998-99	[1]—	162,450
1999-2000	1,051,000	165,648
2000-01	1,058,000	163,266
2001-02	1,007,000	159,763
2002-03	1,026,000	158,554
2003-04	949,000	164,339
2004-05	880,000	154,847
2005-06	833,000	150,702
2006-07	851,000	145,784
2007-08	817,000	140,797

	Estimated incidence of self-reported workplace injuries from the LFS	*Total count of RIDDOR injuries to workers*
2008-09	726,000	*134,094

[1] Comparable data is not available from the LFS for the early part of the time period, 1996-97 to 1998-99.

Note:

The annual basis of RIDDOR recording is the planning year from 1 April to 31 March. Data for 2008-09 is provisional, denoted by "*"

Source:

Labour Force Survey and RIDDOR

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-workers were injured by workplace activities in each year from 1997 to 2009. [8023]

Chris Grayling: Notifications of injuries to members of the public arising from a work activity (i.e. the injured person was not at work themselves) are made under RIDDOR—the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. This dataset includes accidents to members of the public that are either fatal or that result in the injured person being taken directly to hospital. The following table provides the figures from RIDDOR regarding injuries to members of the public for the period 1996-97-2008-09.

	Total count of RIDDOR injury notifications to members of the public
1996-97	36,061
1997-98	29,006
1998-99	24,169
1999-2000	25,495
2000-01	21,280
2001-02	15,227
2002-03	13,189
2003-04	14,053
2004-05	14,686
2005-06	16,269
2006-07	18,188
2007-08	18,915
2008-09[1]	[2]23,741

[1] Provisional.

[2] For 2008-09, a change in the legal interpretation of the reportability of accidents occurring in schools has resulted in the addition of approximately 3,400 additional records. In addition, a reduced level of quality checks on reportability was undertaken on incidents involving members of the public in local authority (LA) enforced premises. An estimate shows that there are approximately 740 LA records included in the 2008-09 total that in previous years would have been excluded.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent assessment is of the probability of a person being injured at work. [8024]

Chris Grayling: Based on the latest rate of self-reported workplace injury, we estimate that approximately one in 40 workers currently suffer from a workplace injury in a 12-month period. This estimate is based on the percentage of workers who sustained a workplace injury in 2008-09. The following table gives the percentages for 1999-2000 to 2008-09.

	Estimated percentage of workers suffering workplace injury in previous 12-months
1999-2000	4.0
2000-01	4.0
2001-02	3.8
2002-03	3.8
2003-04	3.5
2004-05	3.2
2005-06	3.0
2006-07	3.1
2007-08	2.9
2008-09	2.6

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Jobcentre Plus

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the work of Jobcentre Plus with clients with mental health and substance abuse issues; and if he will make a statement. [6604]

Chris Grayling: There has been no recent formal assessment of the work of Jobcentre Plus with customers who have substance misuse issues. However, following discussions with officials from the Department of Health, Jobcentre Plus has strengthened its support to this customer group.

An assessment of support for people with mental health issues was made in 2009. Jobcentre Plus introduced a Mental Health Coordinator in each district. This strengthens the framework of support available to people with health conditions. We are currently considering how best to support customers with mental health and substance abuse issues and are committed to ensuring that they are able to participate fully in the society.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Durham

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* lone parents who will have been on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in City of Durham constituency in 2013. [8465]

Chris Grayling: The information is not available.

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in City of Durham constituency. [8468]

Chris Grayling: In April 2010 there were 60 lone parents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in City of Durham.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the level of funding allocated to the Independent Living Fund for the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [illegible]

Maria Miller: The Independent Living Fund budget for 2010-11 is £348 million. This is an increase of 3% above its previous year's allocation.

No decisions have been made beyond the current financial year. Departmental budgets for future years are all subject to the forthcoming spending review across Government.

SCOTLAND

Independent Living Fund: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and *(b)* the Scottish Executive on the closure of applications to the Independent Living Fund for the 2010-11 financial year. [7838]

Michael Moore: Although the budget of the Independent Living Fund has risen this year, pressure on it has meant that the Fund has been closed to new applicants for the rest of the financial year. This will ensure that existing claimants are protected and continue to get the help they need. I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

Lanarkshire: Official Visits

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many times he has visited Lanarkshire on official business since 7 May 2010; and when he next intends to do so. [7785]

Michael Moore: I have not visited Lanarkshire on official business since 7 May 2010. I have plans to visit many areas of Scotland in the course of my duties as Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next plans to visit Lanarkshire to discuss Government spending priorities in that area. [7744]

Michael Moore: I will be visiting many areas of Scotland and undertaking discussions on a wide range of issues whilst representing the Scotland Office.

Merchant Shipping

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what date he last discussed the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010 with the Secretary of State for Transport. [8338]

Michael Moore: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning) made a written ministerial statement on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 14WS, confirming that the Government are in no doubt that ship-to-ship transfers require some form of regulation because of their potential damage to the UK's seas and coasts. However, given the concerns expressed by industry about some aspects of the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010, the Government have decided to defer their entry into force while a review is conducted.

Transport: Scotland

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on cross-border rail services serving Motherwell. [7551]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions he has used cross-border rail services via Motherwell since 7 May 2010; and when he next plans to do so. [7784]

Michael Moore: I have not used cross-border rail services via Motherwell in my role as Secretary of State for Scotland since 7 May 2010.

Voting Systems: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the date of the proposed referendum on the alternative vote system. [7983]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend and other colleagues on this and other matters.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in his Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8321]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport (Mike Penning) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7401]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) speechwriting team, which serves my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the five other FCO Ministers, consists of four civil servants.

European Union

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6879]

Mr Lidington: This information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Zimbabwe: Diamonds

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Zimbabwean counterpart on the export of diamonds and compliance with the Kimberley Process requirements. [8014]

Mr Bellingham: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is disappointed the Kimberley Process did not reach agreement on Zimbabwean diamonds when it met on 21-24 June 2010, and calls on its participants to work hard to reach agreement when they meet again on 14-16 July.

Our embassy in Harare will continue to urge the Government of Zimbabwe to maintain a firm commitment to the Kimberley Process and urgently to take action to bring all mining operations in the Marange fields into compliance with Kimberley Process requirements.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in how many military *(a)* conventional state on state and *(b)* counter insurgency conflicts British forces have been involved in the last 30 years. [5276]

Dr Fox: There is no standard definition of conflict, state conflict, or counter insurgency. Taking a reasonable interpretation of these terms, since 1980 UK forces have been involved in the following conflicts involving force against another state, some of them undertaken in distinct operational phases over time: Falkland Islands; Bosnia; Kosovo; Iraq (twice). Operations of a counter insurgency nature have been undertaken in Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Sierra Leone, Vanuatu, and the follow on phases of the second Iraq conflict.

Operations that fall outside these definitions including peace keeping and peace support, UN observer missions, evacuation and humanitarian operations and military aid to the civil authorities.

Details of individual defence operations and their purposes over the period in question can be found in the Defence Annual Report and Accounts, and its predecessor publications, which are all published documents and are placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 4-5W, on armed forces: private education, what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* average parental contribution paid in respect of each rank in receipt of continuity of education allowance was in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [7222]

Mr Robathan: Details of the average parental contribution paid by each rank in receipt of continuity of education allowance are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 4-5W, on armed forces: private education, if he will review the amount of parental contribution to the continuity of education allowance paid by service personnel in receipt of the allowance. [7801]

Mr Robathan: All allowances remain under regular review to ensure that service personnel are adequately recompensed for conditions of service not covered by the x-factor and for the necessary additional costs incurred by virtue of service. Continuity of education allowance allows a stability of education when a service family is required to be mobile for service reasons. Under current arrangements the service person claiming the allowance pays a minimum contribution of 10% of the school fees. The level of this contribution has been scrutinised every year and is currently assessed as appropriate.

Defence

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has set a timetable for receiving contributions to the Strategic Defence and Security Review from *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* representative organisations. [6743]

Mr Letwin: I have been asked to reply.

Government have already begun engaging with key partners and representative organisations on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, and will be providing individual members of the armed forces and their families with the opportunity to contribute. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the noble Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 7 July 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA 48. The Government expect to publish a National Security Strategy and the outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review in the autumn, in coordination with the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). Contributions and ideas from members of the public and representative organisations and others are welcome at any time during this process.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent *(a)* in total and *(b)* on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [5911]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally. To determine a cost for this activity would require extensive collation from all areas of the MOD and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Human Resources

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on human resources in each year since 1997. [5104]

Mr Robathan: Financial information for both civilian and military human resources is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the original estimated cost was of the Defence Information Infrastructure project; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost of that project. [6998]

Peter Luff: The current estimate of the whole Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) Programme is around £7.1 billion; this figure was reported by the NAO in their Value for Money Report published 4 July 2008. This figure includes two future—and not on contract—increments for DII Deployed Restricted and the second tranche of DII Top Secret and also includes other separately funded programmes, which are outside of DII but on which DII depends.

An earlier estimate of £5.854 billion was calculated at contract let as the cost to deploy DII to permanent land sites only. This estimate did not include monies for DII Deployed and Top Secret as their capability and scope were not fully mature at that time.

Due to the changing shape of the defence landscape, which will be informed by the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the current £7.1 billion estimate may need to be revisited once the review is completed.

Departmental Training

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training has been provided for Ministers in his Department since the formation of the present administration; and at what cost. [6446]

Mr Robathan: Defence Ministers have been provided with a wide-ranging induction package including briefs on security, finance, IT, and the running of Government. In-house media training is also given so that Ministers are able to effectively communicate the objectives of the Ministry of Defence and the work of the armed forces to the media and the wider public.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude) to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 51-52W. The National School of Government is funded through its Core Learning Programme to deliver induction and other training to Ministers, and there is no separate charge to Departments.

European Fighter Aircraft

Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of employees in the UK defence and aerospace sector working on the Typhoon Fighter programme *(a)* in East Yorkshire and *(b)* in the UK. [7015]

Peter Luff: Analysis by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is that a minimum of 8,600 jobs should be directly sustained in the UK by the Typhoon programme. The Ministry of Defence does not hold information on how many of these jobs are in East Yorkshire.

Gibraltar: Spain

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the incident between Royal Navy vessels and the Spanish Civil Guard patrol boats which took place in British waters around Gibraltar on 17 June 2010. [8083]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* There are no reports of an incident in British Gibraltarian Territorial Waters involving the Royal Navy on 17 June 2010.

Red Arrows

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the military application is of the Red Arrows; and what military usage has been made of the Red Arrows in each of the last five years. [6475]

Nick Harvey: The Red Arrows do not have a direct operational role. However, they contribute to a number of military tasks, including public duties and security co-operation, where they support defence diplomacy by demonstrating British excellence, strengthening international relations and promoting wider British influence and interests.

Readily available information on Red Arrows participation in events of this nature over the last five years is provided in the following table. This excludes the significant number of fly-pasts (undertaken en-route) to and from more formal engagements as this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	UK display	*UK formal flypast*	*Overseas display*	*Overseas formal fly-past*
2005	79	3	16	1
2006	64	1	16	0
2007	70	4	19	0
2008	57	6	12	0
2009	82	2	12	0

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Research

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research projects on *(a)* soil science, *(b)* traditional plant breeding, *(c)* marker-assisted plant breeding, *(d)* crop agronomy, *(e)* plant physiology, *(f)* plant pathology, *(g)* agricultural botany, *(h)* environmental microbiology, *(i)* weed science, *(j)* entomology, *(k)* crop irrigation, *(l)* nitrogen fixation, *(m)* soil phosphorous, *(n)* soil erosion, *(o)* pollinating insects and *(p)* integrated pest management her Department has funded since 1997; what the (i) research topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8032]

Richard Benyon: Data taken from the Science Information System, used to store data on all of DEFRA's research and development projects, have been placed in the House Library.

Each project is assigned keywords, which is how the list was generated.

The results using these keywords is as closely matched as possible but due to the design of the system it is not possible to extract the data precisely as requested.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research projects designed to assist the development of organic agriculture her Department has funded since 1997; what the *(a)* research topic, *(b)* start date, *(c)* cost and *(d)* project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8033]

Richard Benyon: Data taken from the Science Information System, used to store data on all of DEFRA's research and development projects, have been placed in the House Library.

Each project is assigned certain appropriate keywords, which is how the list was generated.

The results are as closely matched as possible but due to the design of the system it is not possible to necessarily extract the data precisely as requested.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research projects designed to assist farmers to *(a)* mitigate the effects of and *(b)* adapt to climate change her Department has funded since 1997; what the (i) research topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8034]

Richard Benyon: Data taken from the Science Information System, used to store data on all of DEFRA's research and development projects, have been placed in the House Library.

Each project is assigned certain appropriate keywords, which is how the list was generated.

The results are as closely matched as possible but due to the design of the system it is not possible to extract the data precisely as requested.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research projects on *(a)* the sources and quantity of greenhouse gases, *(b)* water pollution and *(c)* air pollution arising from agricultural activity her Department has funded since 1997; what the (i) research topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8035]

Richard Benyon: Data taken from the science information system, used to store data on all of DEFRA's research and development projects, have been placed in the House Library.

Each project is assigned certain appropriate keywords, which is how the list was generated.

The results are as closely matched as possible but due to the design of the system it is not possible to extract the data precisely as requested.

Air Pollution

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance her Department offers to local authorities for the purpose of managing air quality management areas. [7093]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA supports local authorities in a number of ways, most specifically through the provision of guidance.

Guidance is intended to ensure consistency of approach in meeting Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties and to provide practice guidance on preparing action plans, consulting stakeholders and developing measures, including cost benefit appraisals. We provide technical, policy and practice guidance on local air quality management and in measures to improve air quality.

All our guidance on air quality can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/local/guidance/index.htm

A support package, including a helpdesk, emissions tools and case studies, is also available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/airquality/local/support/index.htm

An air quality grant is also available, currently £2.3 million per year, to support statutory duties on LAQM, and help support (running costs) for monitoring, emissions inventories, dispersion modelling and action planning.

Since introduction, DEFRA has distributed grant funding of £41 million to English local authorities.

Air Pollution: East of England

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when each air quality management area in each local authority in the East of England was designated. [7091]

Richard Benyon: To date, 28 local authorities have designated air quality management areas in the East of England. These are listed in the following table alongside the dates the air quality management areas (AQMA) came into effect.

Further information is available on the UK National Air Quality Archive

http://aqma.defra.gov.uk/list.php

which is operated on behalf of the Department.

Authority	*Date of effect of AQMA*
Babergh District Council	21 November 2008
Bedford Borough Council	17 May 2005 and 6 November 2009
Breckland District Council	9 May 2005
Brentwood Borough Council	10 January 2005
Broxbourne Borough Council	1 November 2001 and 1 March 2004
Cambridge City Council	1 September 2004
Central Bedfordshire Council	17 January 2005
Colchester Borough Council	1 May 2001 and 1 January 2006

Authority	*Date of effect of AQMA*
Chelmsford Borough Council	1 December 2005
East Hertfordshire Council	14 February 2007
Epping Forest District Council	1 January 2008
Fenland District Council	1 May 2001, 1 April 2006 and 1 September 2006
Forest Heath District Council	6 April 2009
Hertsmere Borough Council	8 April 2003 and 1 January 2005
Huntingdonshire District Council	1 December 2005 and 1 September 2006
Ipswich Borough Council	11 April 2006
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	1 November 2003
Luton Borough Council	3 November 2003 and 31 March 2005
Norwich City Council	1 June 2003
Peterborough Council	1 May 2007
South Cambridgeshire District Council	17 July 2008
St Albans City and District	2 September 2002 and 2 November 2004
St Edmundsbury Borough Council	1 June 2010
Suffolk Coastal District Council	3 April 2006 and 1 May 2009
Three Rivers District Council	1 April 2001
Thurrock Council	1 April 2001 and 1 February 2005
Uttlesford District Council	1 August 2007
Watford Borough Council	17 February 2006

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many areas in the East of England formerly designated as air quality management areas have had that designation removed in each year since 1997. [7092]

Richard Benyon: Since 1997 10 local authorities in the East of England have revoked air quality management areas. These are:

Authority	*Date of AQMA revocation*
Babergh district council[2]	9 March 2004
Bedford borough council[1]	6 November 2009
Broadland district counci[1]	6 April 2010
Central Bedfordshire council[1]	6 November 2009
East Hertfordshire council[2]	28 July 2004
Hertsmere borough council[2]	8 April 2003
Kings Lynn and W Norfolk[1]	11 August 2006
South Cambridgeshire district council[1]	23 July 2008
St Edmundsbury borough council[2]	14 January 2003
Thurrock council[1]	1 February 2005

[1] Part of AQMA was revoked still leaving in place some AQMAs
[2] Further AQMA was declared following the revocation

Dairy Farming: Cooperatives

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the creation of and support for dairy farming co-operatives; and what recent steps her Department has taken in support of this policy. [7056]

Mr Paice: It is the coalition's policy to enhance the role of farming co-operatives—which have an important role to play in improving the productivity and competitiveness of farming.

Earlier this year, the EFRA Select Committee issued a report following the collapse of Dairy Farmers of Britain in the summer of 2009. Its recommendations were wide-reaching and covered complex and specialist issues which go beyond DEFRA's responsibilities for dairy and agricultural cooperatives. DEFRA is leading across Government to bring together a response to this report and the Secretary of State will be formally responding to the Committee shortly.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5973]

Richard Benyon: Property items lost or stolen are all recorded as 'losses'. The following table shows losses with an estimated value (at the time of loss) of over £50. Figures are from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

Description	*Number*	*Estimated value (£)*
BlackBerrys	9	1,510
Camera	1	100
Laptops	41	25,650
Desktop PCs	4	1,050
Projectors	3	1,850
Monitors	5	460
Other items	4	550

Measures to deter, prevent and detect theft are an important feature of the Department's protective security controls. These controls reflect the standards set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework (SPF) issued by the Cabinet Office.

DEFRA takes the loss of equipment very seriously so regular security guidance is provided to staff. Security breach patrols are undertaken and staff are notified of instances where equipment has been left out or inadequately secured.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in her Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8320]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not hold this information.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of her Department's regulations are under review; and if she will make a statement. [7154]

Mr Paice: The Government are taking steps to reduce the burden of regulation, including a fundamental review of regulations in the pipeline. DEFRA is playing a full part in this process.

As part of this commitment, Richard Macdonald will head an industry-led Task Force on Farming Regulation to identify ways to reduce the regulatory burden and advise on how best to achieve a risk-based system of regulation.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in her Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in her Department. [7296]

Richard Benyon: Two and a half civil servants are employed to write speeches for the ministerial team.

EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the cost to her Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6878]

Mr Paice: The last estimate of the cost of EU regulation to British businesses made by DEFRA was contained in the second Forward Regulatory Programme published in April 2010. This publication includes new regulatory costs stemming from the EU between April 2010 and April 2011. DEFRA has not to date estimated the overall cost of either all individual EU regulation or domestic regulation, however we are currently reviewing our regulatory landscape (both stock and pipeline measures) in line with commitments made in the coalition agreement to significantly strengthen the approach to reducing the burden of regulation.

We also recently announced two specific reviews which will capture and scrutinise regulation originating from the EU. The Task Force on Farming Regulation, announced on 9 June, has been set up to identify ways to reduce the regulatory burden placed on the farming sector. A similar review on 'Waste' policy in England was announced on 15 June.

Horses: Databases

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the percentage of accessible National Equine Database records of pedigrees which are accurate; and what assessment he has made of the effect on that level of accuracy of the *(a)* absence and *(b)* lack of public availability of data on semen imports and artificial insemination. [7880]

Mr Paice: As of 8 July 2010, National Equine Database Ltd has reported that there are 1,389,192 active horse records in the National Equine Database. Of these, some 56% (774,575 records) have had sire or dam data supplied by independent breed societies.

Pedigree records are held on the commercial section of the National Equine Database, which is owned and managed by National Equine Database Ltd on behalf of the equine sector. The Government do not mandate the collection of pedigree data, which is provided on a voluntarily basis by breed societies.

No assessment has been made of the impact of semen imports and artificial insemination on the number of accurate pedigree records in the National Equine Database. Such data are not held on the Database. The Government do not maintain statistics on the artificial insemination of horses.

Litter

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to reduce the level of litter. [6765]

Richard Benyon: This Government have made reducing litter a priority. There is no excuse for littering and we are working with interested partners in business, councils and civil society to collaborate in tackling this problem.

Addressing the litter problem begins at a local level and local authorities have a duty to keep their land clear of litter and refuse and have been given powers of enforcement, first through the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and more recently the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to deal with offenders though either the courts or in issuing on the spot fines.

Littering is a problem best managed locally. Local authorities and magistrates have the necessary legislation to enforce anti-litter policies. Councils can encourage local initiatives, such as the Campaign to Protect Rural England's 'Stop the Drop' campaign.

Pets: Animal Welfare

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish the results of her Department's research project on electric pet training devices. [6768]

Mr Paice: The research project on electronic training devices is due to be completed and the report submitted to DEFRA by the end of November 2010. The results of the project will not be published until they have been peer-reviewed.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to ensure that UK standards on the welfare of chickens reared for meat production are maintained following the implementation of Council Directive 2007/43/EC; and if she will make a statement. [8170]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* Member states, including the UK, were required to bring in laws, regulations and administrative provisions to comply with Council Directive 2007/43/EC by 30 June 2010. Animal Health conduct random, targeted and risk based inspections of farmed premises to check the welfare of livestock and to ensure compliance with the regulations. Appropriate action will also be taken by Animal Health should welfare concerns be identified by the Food Standards Agency Operations Group (formally the Meat Hygiene Service).

The European Commission has a system in place to ensure that Community legislation on animal welfare is properly implemented and enforced. This includes a planned programme of visits by the Food and Veterinary Office to member states under the meat chicken directive.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been provided to fund the City of London Police Overseas Anti-Corruption Unit in each year since 2006; and what her plans are for the future of the unit and its funding. [5607]

Nick Herbert: The City of London Police Overseas Anti-Corruption Unit is funded by the Department for International Development and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The total funding is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Total*	*DfID contribution*	£ *BIS contribution*
2006-07	273,027	273,027	—
2007-08	764,158	764,158	—
2008-09	907,733	840,358	67,375
2009-10	1,054,701	923,875	130,826

No decisions have been taken on the future of the unit and its funding.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place a copy of the Overseas Corruption Assessment drawn up by the City of London Police Overseas Anti-Corruption Unit in the Library. [5611]

Nick Herbert: The report in question is a police authored document and we do not therefore propose to lay a copy in the Library. The City of London police would however be happy to supply a copy to the right hon. Member or to brief him privately on the content.

Crime Prevention

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to proceed with the Not in My Neighbourhood week scheme in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* future years. [7761]

Nick Herbert: Not in My Neighbourhood Week will not take place in 2010. Plans for future years are under review.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will take steps to ensure that Parliament Square is kept free of demonstrators on parliamentary sitting days; what recent representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement; [7276]

(2) if she will commission a report from the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis on the policing of the demonstration held in Parliament Square on 2 July 2010; and if she will make a statement. [7277]

Nick Herbert: We are reviewing the law governing protests in and around Parliament Square.

The Government will continue their discussions with the Greater London Authority, Westminster City Council, the Metropolitan Police, the Speaker and other interested parties on how to support peaceful protest while preventing criminal activity and securing enjoyment and use of the Square for all.

The responsibility for managing Parliament Square Garden rests with the Greater London Authority (GLA) under the GLA Act 1999. The Mayor of London has taken action in the High Court to deal with the current encampment on Parliament Square Garden. This matter remains before the courts.

Departmental Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many buildings her Department occupies in *(a)* London and *(b)* the UK. [6852]

Nick Herbert: The Department excluding its Executive agencies mainly occupies one building in central London and has minor occupations in three others. It occupies 12 others outside London. Proposals to vacate buildings are under consideration.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of her Department's expenditure on *(a)* organisation of and *(b)* attendance at conferences in each year since 1997. [6121]

Nick Herbert: Expenditure incurred on the organisation of and attendance at conferences cannot be identified separately without incurring disproportionate cost. However, the Department has recorded conference-related expenditure on its accounting systems and these are set out in the table. This includes conferences organised and funded by the Home Office for partner bodies and the costs of conference attended by Home Office staff.

	Conference costs (£000)
2004-05	5,190
2005-06	10,594
2006-07	9,326
2007-08	4,020
2008-09	5,844
2009-10	7,760

General and subsidiary ledgers produced for the purpose of preparing certified financial statements are not retained after a period of six years, in line with National Audit Office requirements. The Department does not hold the requested information for financial years before 2004-05.

All expenditure on conference services is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7510]

Nick Herbert: Information on expenditure on television purchase since 1997 is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7630]

Nick Herbert: Information on expenditure on light bulbs since 1997 is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain.

Departmental Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6449]

Nick Herbert: Since the formation of the Government the Home Office has spent £1,000 on official photographs of Ministers. The fee was for hire of a professional photographer for two days to take photographs of Ministers for official use, including the Home Office website, documenting the Home Secretary's arrival at the Home Office, and the Home Secretary's first address to Home Office staff for the intranet.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7378]

Nick Herbert: Security in the Home Office Group is embedded in its operations. The central unit responsible for oversight of security. The Departmental Security Unit, and the security units for the agencies provide central points of support and advice but much of the day to day work of security is done by local units under the guidance of their security liaison officers.

It would be difficult to extract the costs of this work as it would involve examining the accounts of every unit in the Home Office Group. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7592]

Nick Herbert: The utility spend for Home Office HQ at 2 Marsham Street for the last five years is set out in the following table:

Table A

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Electricity	896,118	1,155,412	1,061,074	1,257,195	1,285,273
Gas	75,159	74,869	66,484	122,735	80,914
Water	92,586	92,438	102,778	116,307	123,951

Information on utilities spend for across the rest of the estate is not held centrally.

The telephony spend for the Home Department and UKBA from available records is set out in the following table:

Table B

£ million

Telephony	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Home Office	4.4	3.8	3.7	3.8
UKBA	—	12.0	11.7	10.6

UKBA telephony spend for 2006-07 is not available as it was consolidated within other costs and can not be individually identified. Telephony spend for other Home Office agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally.

Hillsborough Stadium: Disclosure of Information

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date she expects the first documents relating to the Hillsborough disaster to be released by relevant Government Departments. [6796]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* The Hillsborough Independent Panel is overseeing the process for maximum public disclosure of documents relating to the Hillsborough stadium disaster. Government Departments are already working on the arrangements for identifying, cataloguing and reviewing these records.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has met recently with the Bishop of Liverpool in his capacity as chair of the independent panel and has given personal backing to the project.

Immigration

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were given leave to enter the UK under the Post-Study Route of tier 1 of the points-based immigration system in each month since its introduction. [7766]

Damian Green *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The number of people given leave to enter the UK under the post-study route of tier 1 of the points-based immigration system is given in the following table:

	Post-study route tier 1			
	Endorsement			
	Tier 1 (post study) main applicant	*Tier 1 (post study) partner*	*Tier 1 (post study) child*	*Grand total*
April 2008	0	0	—	0
May 2008	0	0	0	0
June 2008	0	0	—	0
July 2008	47	3	0	50
August 2008	84	7	3	94
September 2008	110	16	3	129
October 2008	134	25	6	165
November 2008	178	65	12	255
December 2008	206	65	24	295
January 2009	319	101	27	447
February 2009	375	133	38	546
March 2009	372	127	39	538
April 2009	298	122	31	451
May 2009	338	187	71	596
June 2009	378	172	43	593
July 2009	299	161	46	506
August 2009	355	106	37	498
September 2009	395	141	38	574
October 2009	422	222	89	733
November 2009	379	239	86	704
December 2009	314	183	41	538
January 2010	415	160	50	625
February 2010	389	188	50	627
March 2010	487	245	72	804
Grand total	6,294	2,668	806	9,768

The data in this table are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

Police Community Support Officer: Redundancy

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* average redundancy costs in respect of a police community support officer whose services are no longer required. [6371]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* No such estimates have been made. It is an issue for each force to determine police staff redundancy costs. The redundancy terms are set out under the Local Government Pension Scheme (and Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme for the Metropolitan Police) and the associated compensation schemes.

Police Community Support Officers: Greater Manchester

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there are in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester. [7843]

Nick Herbert: Latest available data, as at 31 Match 2009, show that there were 67 police community support officers in Bolton (BCU) and 782 police community support officers in Greater Manchester police force.

Police: Manpower

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the effects on the number of *(a)* police officers, *(b)* community police officers and *(c)* other front line staff in the Northumbria police force of the reduction in the force's funding for 2010-11. [7123]

Nick Herbert: Every force will face a cut equivalent to the same percentage (under 1.5%) of the core funding they receive from central Government.

These proposed reductions should not impact on the frontline. Decisions about the number of police officers, police community support officers and other police staff engaged by the police remain a matter for each chief constable and the police authority, but we have made it clear that the frontline should remain strong and secure and we expect police authorities to look at how they spend their money and ensure that they are delivering a cost effective service to achieve this.

Police: VAT

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the financial effects on police forces of the proposed increase in the standard rate of value added tax in 2011; [7270]

(2) how much value added tax was paid by police forces in the latest year for which figures are available. [7271]

Nick Herbert: We do not hold information centrally on how much police forces pay in VAT.

Speed Limits: Fines

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fines for speeding offences have been *(a)* issued by each police force in the East of England region in each year since 1997 and *(b)* how many such fines have been paid by residents of Norwich South constituency in each such year. [7052]

Nick Herbert: Data showing the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued by police in the East of England region from 1997 to 2008 (latest available), broken down by police force area, are provided in table A.

Additionally, data on the number of court fines for speeding, provided by the Ministry of Justice, are provided in table B.

The data on fines reported to the Home Office and Ministry of Justice do not include information on the persons paying the fines; therefore it is not possible to identify the number of fines paid by residents of the Norwich South constituency.

Table A: Number of fixed penalty notices issued for speeding offences, by police force area, East of England region 1997-2007[1]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bedfordshire	8,700	10,255	18,008	16,707	13,415	40,338	66,709	56,762	44,736	48,407	30,029	19,884
Cambridgeshire	14,837	13,818	14,562	8,708	6,777	15,435	28,510	19,802	44,997	20,502	25,371	22,548
Essex	48,123	19,282	38,097	56,010	87,038	101,063	66,281	68,852	85,745	60,705	44,796	25,956
Hertfordshire	17,604	14,063	25,687	23,956	23,474	23,203	28,696	61,637	49,738	81,805	41,593	34,945
Norfolk	4,895	5,379	9,267	4,783	5,166	17,116	31,640	26,938	25,117	24,985	24,878	20,359
Suffolk	7,271	12,640	18,088	12,596	12,416	9,477	16,606	40,847	40,029	34,442	30,378	34,678
Total East of England	101,430	75,437	123,709	122,760	148,286	206,632	238,442	274,838	290,362	270,846	197,045	158,370

[1] Includes only FPNs issued and paid. Where penalties are not paid and are referred to court, they are no longer recorded as FPNs.

Table B: The number of fines imposed at all courts in the East of England Government Office Region, by police force area, for speed limit offences[1]*, from 1997 to 2008*[2,3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bedfordshire	1,024	3,431	1,913	2,019	2,332	1,551	3,521	1,171	4,507	4,353	4,239	2,530
Cambridgeshire	4,930	3,126	2,647	1,625	756	521	1,163	1,754	2,191	3,466	4,181	4,103
Essex	5,035	4,743	6,619	6,275	9,132	14,570	9,263	8,292	9,961	7,688	7,247	5,355
Hertfordshire	2,115	2,838	2,771	2,277	2,088	2,334	2,167	1,806	2,990	2,915	2,525	2,409
Norfolk	1,215	1,372	1,679	1,374	1,449	1,269	2,372	2,764	2,824	3,453	2,669	2,579
Suffolk	1,041	1,456	1,648	1,210	1,236	1,266	763	1,820	3,213	3,035	3,401	3,561
Total	15,360	16,966	17,277	14,780	16,993	21,511	19,249	17,607	25,686	24,910	24,262	20,537

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16. 81, 84. 86, 88 & 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Leader of the House how much his Office has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7961]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer by the Minister for the Cabinet Office of 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 598W.

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Leader of the House which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Office have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7962]

Sir George Young: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons is part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer by the Minister for the Cabinet Office of 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 668W.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7348]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is detailed in the following table:

	Cost (£)			
	NFA[1]	*SFO*[2]	*CPS*[3]	*TSol*[4]
2001-02	—	—	—	154,000
2002-03	—	—	—	36,000
2003-04	—	—	8,364,000	—
2004-05	—	—	7,327,000	—
2005-06	—	180,578	4,402,000	—

				Cost (£)
	NFA[1]	*SFO*[2]	*CPS*[3]	*Tsol*[4]
2006-07	—	1,041,957	6,251,000	—
2007-08	—	1,534,458	4,724,000	2,774,000
2008-09	—	1,132,476	5,173,000	39,000
2009-10	34,770	52,008	10,293,000	—

[1] The National Fraud Authority shared premises with HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate in 2008-09 and had no refurbishment costs during this period.

[2] 2005-06 was the first year that money was spent on refurbishment and the figures include all capital expenditure.

[3] The figures from 2005-06 onwards include costs for the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO)—who merged with the CPS on 1 January 2010. The data is taken from the Financial Management System and is only available from 2003-04 onwards, data for earlier years could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. The data for 2009-10 are subject to audit.

[4] The data includes TSol, AGO and HMCPSI. Figures prior to 2001-02 are not retained and could be determined only at a disproportionate cost. In May 2007 the Attorney-General's Office was relocated as the lease on its accommodation had ended. The expenditure in 2007-08 reflects the cost of fitting out the new accommodation.

Departmental Marketing

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on logo design in each year since 1997. [7474]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is as follows.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) merged on 1 January 2010.

Expenditure on logos in both organisations since 1997 was as follows:

2006-07: £5,950—redesign cost of the CPS logo.

2005-06: £8,594—total cost of the RCPO logo. This figure represents the full cost for the design and implementation of the logo, which took place at the new organisation's inception. A breakdown of this figure to provide solely the design costs is not available.

TSol redesigned its logo in 2004-05. The total cost was £20,000.

Since 1997 the Serious Fraud Office has spent £16,290 on branding exercises.

Since launching in 2008-09, the National Fraud Authority spent £38,290 in 2008-09, and £38,024 in 2009-10 on logo design. The expenditure incurred in 2008-09 was for the design and development of the National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA) brand, including logo design. The expenditure in 2009-10 includes rebranding to the National Fraud Authority (logo development and office branding), and development of the Action Fraud logo.

The Attorney-General's office and HMCPSI have incurred no external design expenditure on logo design.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments have spent on the Government car service since the Government took office. [7998]

The Attorney-General: Since the Government took office, the Crown Prosecution Service has spent £14,858.21 on the Government car service.

Treasury Solicitor's have made payments of £22,985 to the Government car service between May 6 and 30 June. This includes the costs incurred by the Attorney-General's Office.

The SFO, HMCPSI and NFA do not use the Government car service.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997. [7310]

The Attorney-General: Information relating to the Law Officer's departments is as follows.

The National Fraud Authority (NFA) spent £5,100 on staff away day events during 2009-10. There was no expenditure in 2008-09 when the NFA was launched.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is a devolved organisation and local managers are responsible for arranging away days. Information on the number and costs of away days that took place outside CPS buildings attended by civil servants is not recorded centrally. To obtain the information requested would require all managers to review financial records since 2003 (our financial systems can only go that far back) and would incur disproportionate cost.

The following information is available for away days relating to the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO) who merged with the CPS on 1 January 2010:

	Expenditure (£)
2005-06	6,159
2006-07	15,092
2007-08	27,401
2008-09	77,581
2009-10	18,468
2009-10	[1]—

[1] Amounts are still subject to audit.

The Serious Fraud Office holds workshops and conferences which relate directly to business priorities and strategy. Participation and contribution by staff is required. The cost for such events is not recorded separately from other conference events, the total cost for which is detailed in the following table.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
1997-98	5,973
1998-99	10,517
1999-2000	13,596
2000-01	24,525
2001-02	55,260
2002-03	45,181
2003-04	19,170
2004-05	78,800
2005-06	42,295
2006-07	79,675
2007-08	28,628

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2008-09	36,977
2009-10	26,956

It is not possible to separately identify the amount spent by the Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Inspectorate on staff away days from other expenditure on training and organising and attending conferences without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7580]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is outlined as follows.

Spending on these utilities by the SFO is outlined in the following table:

SFO[1]	*Electricity*	*Water*	*Heating*	*Cost (£)* *Telephones*
1997-98	64,844	6,580	6,206	90,272
1998-99	58,443	5,132	5,531	98,417
1999-2000	63,007	3,427	6,391	93,376
2000-01	53,988	3,001	9,987	81,695
2001-02	72,433	3,914	9,581	156,693
2002-03	66,120	2,456	14,821	121,703
2003-04	66,486	3,777	9,928	141,520
2004-05	83,649	4,722	16,501	148,271
2005-06	135,178	4,778	18,162	257,845
2006-07	397,586	4,732	29,525	259,389
2007-08	168,498	2,884	18,335	284,204
2008-09	243,729	4,747	48,117	302,833
2009-10	284,351	3,430	24,909	299,944

[1] The NFA collocated with the Serious Fraud Office in its office at Gray's Inn Road in 2009-10 and all NFA costs for utilities, are accounted for in the SFO's 2009-10 figure. Additionally NFA spent £2,039 on the procurement of mobile/blackberry and 3G services.

The amount spent by the Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate for each year is shown as follows. The figures prior to 1998-99 are not retained on the Department's accounting system, and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate was not included within the Department until mid-2001.

The National Fraud Authority shared premises with HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate in 2008-09 and all utilities were paid for by the inspectorate.

	Electricity	*Water*	*Gas Heating*	*£000* *Telephone services*
1997-98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998-99	39.7	4.69	14.1	148.0
1999-2000	54.1	26.7	16.6	160.9
2000-01	52.5	18.7	18.5	184.0
2001-02	72.6	18.4	28.1	331.9
2002-03	63.4	19.5	36.2	232.2
2003-04	86.6	17.7	40.6	341.5
2004-05	92.7	16.3	65.7	329.3
2005-06	144.5	15.1	28.8	403.5
2006-07	169.9	7.7	30.7	399.6
2007-08	185.4	7.1	7.5	429.7
2008-09	326.8	2.0	30.4	416.7
2009-10	420.4	3.6	21.0	503.5

The following tables show the amounts for electricity, water and gas (the gas and electricity would form part of the heating charges) and telephone services incurred by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). They also show the amount spent on telephone services and utilities by the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO)—who merged with the CPS on 1 January 2010. The data are taken from the financial management system and are only available for 2003-04 onwards. RCPO expenditure for 2009-10 is included in the CPS totals for that year.

CPS

	Expenditure (£ million)
Telephone services	
2003-04	5.342
2004-05	5.818
2005-06	6.479
2006-07	6.068
2007-08	6.759
2008-09	6.902
2009-10	6.669
Electricity	
2003-04	0.944
2004-05	1.117
2005-06	1.484
2006-07	1.436
2007-08	1.433
2008-09	1.722
2009-10	2.094
Water	
2003-04	0.162
2004-05	0.163
2005-06	0.224
2006-07	0.245
2007-08	0.228
2008-09	0.237
2009-10	0.166
Gas	
2003-04	0.182
2004-05	0.207
2005-06	0.269
2006-07	0.253
2007-08	0.202
2008-09	0.330
2009-10	0.234

RCPO

	Expenditure (£ million)
Utilities	
2005-06	0.000
2006-07	0.019
2007-08	0.110
2008-09	0.126
2009-10	0.006
Telephone services	
2005-06	0.005
2006-07	0.029
2007-08	0.017
2008-09	0.088
2009-10	0.049

During 2005-06 RCPO utilities were not reported separately from the main rental payment to HMRC—hence no expenditure is shown for this year. The 2009-10 figures are subject to audit.

Written Questions: Expenditure

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Attorney-General what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of answering Questions 7474, 7498, 7580, 7599, 7618, 7637, 7329, 7348, 7366, 7417, 7436, 7455 and 7310, tabled on 8 July 2010 by the hon. Member for Weaver Vale (Graham Evans) for written answer. [8177]

The Attorney-General: The Treasury produces regular estimates of the average cost of answering a written parliamentary question. The estimated figure was last updated to £154 in January 2010 and Parliament was notified in a written statement issued by the former Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry), on 20 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 15WS.

Estimating the exact costs of producing individual PQ answers is very difficult, although it is fair to say that in the case of most of the above questions the average cost has almost certainly been exceeded, and in a few cases may be approaching the upper disproportionate cost threshold limit of £800. All of these questions requested a large amount of factual information, none of which was stored centrally and thus required a coordinated information gathering exercise across the Law Officers Departments.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7351]

John Penrose: The Department has spent the following on office refurbishments in each of the last 10 years.

	£
1999-2000	243,000
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-09	0
2006-07	8,700,000
2007-08	0
2008-09	40,625

We do not hold figures prior to 1999.

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7501]

John Penrose: Between financial years 2005-06 and 2009-10, the following amounts were spent on televisions at this Department:

Expenditure on TVs

	£
2005-06	[1]3,231
2006-07	2,153
2007-08	7,023
2008-09	1,295
2009-10	1,796

[1] This amount includes a flat screen television, stand, protective screen and case. It is not possible to separate the cost of each item.

Note:

Information prior to 2005-06 is not available.

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7621]

John Penrose: The Department does not directly purchase light bulbs. The replacement of light bulbs is included in the Department's facilities management contract and it is not possible to disaggregate the cost.

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present Administration. [6427]

John Penrose: In the first week of the current Administration's tenure, the Department commissioned a photographer to take official photographs of new Ministers and a range of additional images for use on the DCMS website and in communication materials, at a cost of £600.

We keep photography costs to a minimum and wherever possible departmental staff take photographs at no cost, or we use cost-free images.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7369]

John Penrose: The Department has spent the following on security in each year since 2007:

Financial year	*Spend on security (£)*
2009-10	357,762
2008-09	360,262
2007-08	413,780

We do not hold figures for preceding years.

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7420]

John Penrose: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's Travel and Subsistence guidance and is consistent with the Civil Service Management Code.

The following table outlines this Department's expenditure on travel since 1997:

Financial Year	*Total (£)*
2009-10	260,269
2008-09	380,209
2007-08	414,290
2006-07	491,452
2005-06	580,749
2004-05	446,211
2003-04	429,849
2002-03	444,245
2001-02	375,368
2000-01	335,577
1999-2000	335,068
1996-97	232,160
1997-98	242,937

Information on the amount spent by the DCMS agency and arm's length bodies is held by them and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Historic Buildings: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to his answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 16W, on Coventry Market, when he plans to make a final decision. [7100]

John Penrose *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* I am sorry I was unable to make a decision before the date stated in the previous answer. I will make a decision on this by the end of July.

National Lottery

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to what good causes National Lottery funding went in the first year after the lottery was established. [8007]

John Penrose *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The National Lottery etc. Act 1993 established four good causes: arts, sport, national heritage and charitable expenditure which each received 20% of lottery proceeds. In addition to the four good causes a further 20% was assigned to projects to mark the year 2000 and the beginning of the third millennium. This ceased to receive income from the national lottery in 2001.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7350]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) on 16 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W.

The amounts spent by the Department's agencies and non-departmental government bodies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on consultancy fees in 2009. [5500]

Robert Neill: The Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent the following on consultancy in the financial year 2009-10:

	2009-10 Spend (£)
Communities	36,558,000
Government Office Network	814,713
Planning Inspectorate	330,231
Fire Service College	225,953

	2009-10 Spend (£)
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	96,744
Housing and Communities Agency	4,567,963
Ordnance Survey	2,184,819
FireBuy	1,412,396
Audit Commission	3,693,060
Lease	45,399
Valuation Tribunal Service	180,095
Tenant Service Authority	0
Community Development Foundation	634,863
Independent Housing Ombudsman	150,569
Standards Board	202,577
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	7,616,590
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	4,755,364
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	3,175,816
Total	66,645,151

These figures are from the 2009-10 Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey (PSPES) and reflect consultancy spend from the organisation under the definition of consultancy approved by the Office of Government Commerce.

The Government have pledged to reduce consultancy spend across Government. The Department is committed to supporting this and has implemented a consultancy freeze across the Department, our agencies and non-departmental public bodies to release £5.8 million in 2010-11.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7500]

Robert Neill: Details of expenditure on televisions are not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7331]

Robert Neill: The following table shows total spend on information and communications technology for the last financial year for *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies. Details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year: 2009-10

	£
Communities and Local Government	128,299,000
Government Office Network	12,515,023
Planning Inspectorate	2,231,068
Fire Service College	498,540
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	378,475
Housing and Communities Agency	5,051,389
Ordnance Survey	26,038,339
FireBuy	166,892
Audit Commission	5,069,631
LEASE	43,073
Valuation Tribunal Service	399,981
Tenant Service Authority	2,696,124
Community Development Fund	197,773
Housing Ombudsman	161,942
Standards Board	652,167
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	289,226
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	459,547
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	306,590

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since 1997. [7601]

Robert Neill: Details of expenditure on website design are not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lighting

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since 1997. [7620]

Robert Neill: Details of expenditure on light bulbs are not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 9 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 173W, on departmental mobile phones, what the *(a)* purchase cost of the handset, *(b)* network provider, *(c)* type of tariff and *(d)* name of the supplier is of the BlackBerry device issued to each Minister in his Department. [4011]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 24 June 2010]:* Three Ministers are currently using BlackBerrys of different models issued by the Department. Two were provided under the terms of the Department contract with Orange Ltd who supply the devices and provide the network and are Model 8310. The third device—Model 9700 is currently on trial—cost £314 (excluding VAT). Each of the three devices has a tariff of £14.50 (excluding VAT) each month. All are compliant with the Government's mandatory security settings.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7438]

Robert Neill: The following table shows the amounts spent on food by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies. These figures are taken from the Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey (PSPES). There is no category for hospitality within the survey. Figures for earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

2009-10	£
Communities and Local Government	106,616
Government Office Network	190,691
Planning Inspectorate	52,850
Fire Service College	0
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0
Housing and Communities Agency	84,938
Ordnance Survey	0
FireBuy	1,359
Audit Commission	104,852
LEASE	745
Valuation Tribunal Service	19,740
Tenant Service Authority	0
Community Development Fund	0
Housing Ombudsman	2,942
Standards Board	0
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	10,725
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	2,016
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	0

Departmental Public Expenditure

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether equality impact assessments will be used in determining the areas of his Department's budget in respect of which spending will be reduced. [8339]

Robert Neill: Yes, we will be following spending review guidance issued by the Government Equalities Office to ensure that decisions give due consideration to any disproportionate impact on women, disabled people and ethnic minorities.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7145]

Grant Shapps: The Department is reviewing all regulation in the pipeline for implementation inherited from the previous Administration. This is in line with the cross Government action plan for reducing regulation launched by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills on 3 June.

I am also reviewing the secondary legislation, statutory guidance and regulation sponsored by this Department already on the statute. The direction of travel on the first 11 pieces of secondary legislation was published on 7 July 2010 and is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/doc/1633576.doc

Copies have also been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since 1997. [7368]

Robert Neill: The following table shows total spend on security for the last financial year for *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies. Details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

2009-10

	£
Communities and Local Government	850,890
Government Office Network	36,117
Planning Inspectorate	10,519
Fire Service College	1,905
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	594,095
Housing and Communities Agency	4,265,192
Ordnance Survey	0
FireBuy	0
Audit Commission	0
LEASE	179
Valuation Tribunal Service	3,918
Tenant Service Authority	0
Community Development Fund	3,459
Housing Ombudsman	1,740
Standards Board	5,287
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	0
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	22,829
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	0

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7302]

Robert Neill: There is one dedicated full-time member of departmental staff employed to write speeches. A small number of other officials periodically draft content for ministerial speeches.

For context, three dedicated speechwriters were employed between 2004-09 and two dedicated speechwriters were employed in 2009-10.

No special advisers are employed by the Department specifically to write speeches.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7457]

Robert Neill: The following table shows the total spent on stationery (eg office supplies and consumables) for the last financial year for *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies. Details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

2009-10	*Total (£)*
Communities and Local Government	480,180
Government Office Network	162,784
Planning Inspectorate	159,495
Fire Service College	25,696
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0
Housing and Communities Agency	30,482
Ordnance Survey	9,736
FireBuy	7,953
Audit Commission	0
LEASE	6,037
Valuation Tribunal Service	36,710
Tenant Service Authority	111,280
Community Development Fund	68,211
Housing Ombudsman	11,733
Standards Board	18,004
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	32,868
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	23,441
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	43,870
Total	1,228,481

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997. [7312]

Robert Neill: Details of employee awaydays are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on the future of the FiReControl project; [7914]

(2) what steps he has put in place to ensure that the FiReControl project is delivered on time and on budget. [7915]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 526W, to the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham).

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were rescued from fires by each fire and rescue service in England between April 2009 and March 2010; and how many were *(a)* injured or *(b)* unharmed. [7916]

Robert Neill: The numbers of people who were rescued from fires by each Fire and Rescue Service in England are shown in the table for the six-month period April to September 2009. Data to March 2010 will be available by the end of August.

	Rescued, injured and went to hospital	*Rescued, first aid given at scene*	*Rescued, precautionary check recommended*	*Rescued (rescue without injury)*	*Total*
Avon	6	2	0	26	34
Bedfordshire	9	0	0	16	25
Buckinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridgeshire	2	1	1	18	22
Cheshire	4	1	0	9	14
Cleveland	7	2	4	9	22
Cornwall	2	1	0	10	13
Cumbria	5	1	0	13	19
Derbyshire	4	0	1	9	14
Devon and Somerset	8	4	1	28	41

	Rescued, injured and went to hospital	*Rescued, first aid given at scene*	*Rescued, precautionary check recommended*	*Rescued (rescue without injury)*	*Total*
Dorset	2	3	0	8	13
Durham	3	1	0	7	11
East Sussex	1	1	1	13	16
Essex	3	4	0	8	15
Gloucestershire	4	1	0	8	13
Greater Manchester	10	8	2	12	32
Hampshire	9	10	6	28	53
Hereford and Worcester	1	0	0	7	8
Hertfordshire	4	3	2	8	17
Humberside	13	2	5	12	32
Isle of Wight	1	0	0	2	3
Kent	13	0	6	18	37
Lancashire	15	6	3	14	38
Leicestershire	8	0	0	12	20
Lincolnshire	2	0	6	1	9
London	75	20	13	189	297
Merseyside	12	2	0	22	36
Norfolk	8	3	1	13	25
North Yorkshire	4	2	2	2	10
Northamptonshire	1	0	0	5	6
Northumberland	1	0	0	2	3
Nottinghamshire	9	5	8	24	46
Oxfordshire	2	3	0	8	13
Royal Berkshire	3	1	2	20	26
Shropshire	3	1	0	8	12
South Yorkshire	8	0	2	36	46
Staffordshire	8	3	0	18	29
Suffolk	2	1	1	9	13
Surrey	2	1	0	12	15
Tyne and Wear	15	6	9	21	51
Warwickshire	6	1	0	6	13
West Midlands	11	11	13	22	57
West Sussex	4	2	4	2	12
West Yorkshire	24	6	0	35	65
Wiltshire	4	0	1	5	10
England (excluding Buckinghamshire)	338	119	94	755	1,306

n/a = not available

Notes:

1. Where a person having no obvious injury is taken to hospital for a precautionary check or advised to seek medical advice, whether or not they actually go.

2. Data for Greater Manchester available incomplete.

Fire Services: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect on funding for fire and rescue services of the two-year freeze of council tax rates; and if he will make a statement. [8368]

Robert Neill: The Government intend to freeze council tax in England for one year, and seek to freeze it for a further year, in partnership with local government. Authorities which choose to freeze or reduce their council tax in 2011-12 will receive a grant, additional to the formula grant, which is equivalent to a council tax increase up to a specified level. Further details will be announced in due course.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the income of each fire and rescue authority in England was from *(a)* central Government grant, *(b)* council tax and *(c)* other sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [8369]

Robert Neill: The proportion of the income from central government grant, council tax and other sources for each Fire and Rescue Authority in England in 2008-09 is in the following tabled.

Percentage

	Central government grant	*Council tax*	*Other sources*
Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority	64.4	34.0	1.6
Merseyside Fire and CD Authority	62.0	34.4	3.7

Percentage

	Central government grant	*Council tax*	*Other sources*
South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	60.8	36.1	3.0
Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority	59.4	35.4	5.1
West Midlands Fire and CD Authority	66.6	29.7	3.7
West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	62.9	36.3	0.7
Avon Combined Fire Authority	56.0	42.5	1.5
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	40.4	57.2	2.4
Berkshire Combined Fire Authority	47.0	51.8	1.2
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	41.5	53.3	5.2
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	47.5	51.0	1.5
Cheshire Combined Fire Authority	43.1	55.4	1.5
Cleveland Combined Fire Authority	67.7	30.2	2.1
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority	46.8	51.5	1.7
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority	47.8	48.6	3.6
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	37.7	50.0	12.3
Durham Combined Fire Authority	47.0	52.8	0.3
East Sussex Combined Fire Authority	37.6	61.2	1.1
Essex Combined Fire Authority	44.2	54.2	1.6
Hampshire Combined Fire Authority	44.2	53.8	2.1
Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority	37.5	59.0	3.5
Humberside Combined Fire Authority	53.9	44.1	1.9
Kent Combined Fire Authority	42.1	52.9	5.0
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	53.8	44.3	1.9
Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority	55.0	43.9	1.1
North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority	43.7	55.4	0.8
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	49.0	45.0	6.0
Shropshire Combined Fire Authority	37.1	59.6	3.3
Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority	43.4	55.0	1.6
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	39.9	58.5	1.6

Source:
Communities and Local Government revenue outturn (RO) returns and capital outturn (CO) returns

Figures for the remaining 16 authorities responsible for fire services are not available as their revenue support grant is unhypothecated and it is therefore not possible to identify the fire service elements.

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates), specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services), specific and special revenue grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), area based grant (ABG) and expenditure financed by capital grants from central government.

The definition of council tax used here includes council taxes financed from council tax benefit grant but excludes council taxes financed from local authority contributions to council tax benefit.

'Other sources' is defined as sum of interest and investment income - external receipts and dividends, sales fees and charges and in-year capital receipts. This excludes 'other income' as reported by local authorities on the Revenue Outturn (RO) returns as this includes internal recharges, which distorts the comparative figures on income.

Fire Services: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on national standards for fire cover in England; and if he will make a statement. [8370]

Robert Neill: The Government have no plans to restore national standards of fire cover in England.

The Government are committed to enabling local authorities and local communities to make appropriate decisions at the local level. Fire and rescue authorities are required to produce and to regularly update an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which identifies and assesses local need and sets out plans to mitigate effectively both existing and potential risks to communities.

Each fire and rescue authority's IRMP enables that individual local authority to decide how best to provide fire and rescue-related services, including prevention and protection, as well as response, with resources being allocated on the basis of the evaluation of risk and where the risks are greatest.

Local requirements are thus determined by local people according to local circumstances.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to fire authorities on *(a)* firefighter training, *(b)* recording non-fatal injuries and *(c)* equipment procurement. [8371]

Robert Neill: The most recent guidance issued for these areas by my Department to fire and rescue authorities is as follows: training guidance relating to breathing apparatus published on 23 March 2009 and a training package on timber framed buildings, issued as part of a Fire and Rescue Service Circular (FRS 38/2009) on the 1 July 2009; and the National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service in England 2009-12, published on 7 August 2009. No guidance on recording non-fatal injuries has been issued since 2007.

Housing: Planning

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has put in place sanctions for councils that do not assess levels of housing need in their area; and whether his Department has established incentives for councils to undertake such an assessment. [7929]

Grant Shapps: Local planning authorities are best placed to determine the right level of local housing provision for their area. They should justify their decisions on local housing need and defend them during the development plan examination process in line with the policy set out in "Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing". We are committed to increasing housing supply and seeing more of the homes that people want, in the places that people want them, to meet Britain's housing need. The coalition agreement set out our clear intention to provide incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including new homes and business. More details will be announced shortly.

Local Government Executive

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to allocate planning functions to the elected executive of local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [7114]

Robert Neill: At present we have no specific plans to make any changes to how local planning authorities divide the exercising of their planning functions between elected members and officers. These are matters for each local planning authority to decide, and to set out in their individual schemes of delegation.

Local Government Finance

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the review of local government finance. [8012]

Robert Neill: The Communities and Local Government Structural Reform Plan, published on 8 July 2010, sets a start date of summer 2011 for the local government resource review. The review will end in 2012.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that those most in need are not affected by the effects of the reduction in his Department's expenditure announced in the written ministerial statement on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-18WS, on the local government savings package; and if he will make a statement; [8185]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 16-17WS, on the local government savings package, if he will undertake an impact assessment of the in-year reduction to grant funding for local authorities. [8243]

Robert Neill: We have asked local authorities to make a contribution of £1.166 billion to the £6.2 billion of cross-Government savings in 2010-11 to enable the Government to take immediate action to start to tackle the fiscal deficit. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made clear in his written ministerial statement that we have taken action to provide the flexibility needed to allow local authorities the freedom to make their own decisions about where savings are found without impacting on essential frontline services. We have adopted a fair approach to the reductions in grants and funding streams and have limited the amount individual authorities lose. The impact on their area of the reductions in grants this year will be for local authorities to decide.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the observations by the then Secretary of State of 7 April 2010 on the petition of persons concerned by the increase in business rates, *Official Report*, columns 42-3P, what the Government's policy is on increases to business rates; and if he will make a statement. [8499]

Robert Neill: Increases in business rates bills are capped each year by the RPI inflation rate. In addition, we are doubling the level of small business rate relief in England for one year, from 1 October 2010.

EDUCATION

Academies: GCSE

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of students at each academy school obtained five GCSEs at grade A* to C in each year since it was established; and what the equivalent figure was in respect of each academy school's predecessor school in each year between 1995 and its reconstitution as an academy school. [4909]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Children: Protection

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from childcare professionals on his proposal to publish serious case reviews. [1678]

Tim Loughton: The coalition programme for government launched on 20 May confirmed the Government's commitment to publishing serious case reviews with identifying details removed. The Government's aim in doing so is to restore public confidence and improve transparency in the child protection system, and to ensure that the context in which the events occurred is properly understood so relevant lessons are learned and applied as widely as possible.

According to our records, by 15 June, the Secretary of State had received one representation from the Victoria Climbié Foundation supporting this commitment. Since becoming Secretary of State, he has received no other representations on this subject from child care professionals.

Departmental Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5970]

Tim Loughton: A breakdown of reported lost or stolen property from the Department for Education in the last 12 month period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 is as follows:

	Lost (a)	*Stolen (b)*	*Total*	*Total estimated cost of replacement (£)*
Laptops	1	6	7	6692.00
Blackberry	15	6	21	1239.00
Memory stick	8	—	8	1088.00
Staff passes	76	12	88	454.96
Total				9473.96

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria will be used by the New Schools Network in deciding which applications for free schools merit consideration by his Department. [5564]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education is reviewing all proposals on receipt to decide whether each section of each proposal form is sufficiently developed and substantial enough to make full assessment worthwhile. The New Schools Network are helping the Department at this stage, providing advice based on their work with proposers. The full assessment process, conducted by the Department, will look at whether a proposal form could lead to an acceptable business case and plan for a school that Ministers will accept based on the criteria published at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/freeschools/frequently-asked-questions#r1

GCSE: Languages

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to increase the number of secondary school pupils studying for a GCSE in a modern European language. [6929]

Mr Gibb: We are currently considering our priorities for the national curriculum, including what subjects it should cover. We will be announcing our plans in due course.

Pupils: Health

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to encourage schools to allow the wearing of medical bracelets by pupils diagnosed with *(a)* diabetes and *(b)* allergies; and if he will make a statement. [5360]

Sarah Teather: It is for governing bodies to set their own policies on managing the medical conditions of their pupils. We trust schools to make sensible arrangements where pupils and parents have requested that they or their child be allowed to wear medical bracelets.

Schools: Admissions

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of pupils *(a)* with and *(b)* without special educational needs expected to enter year (i) one, (ii) seven and (iii) 12 in each local authority area (A) in 2011-12 and (B) 2014-15; how many (1) mainstream and (2) special school places were available in each of those year groups in each local authority area on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [4911]

Sarah Teather: The responsibility for planning future educational provision in a local authority area rests with each individual local authority. However the Department has made national projections and these are summarised in the following table.

Mainstream state funded and special schools: full time and part time pupils with special educational needs: Coverage: England— Position at January

		Actual	*Projections*
	2010	*2012*	*2015*
Pupils aged five and rising five:			
Total number of pupils	765,000	803,000	851,000
Number of pupils without SEN	643,000	675,000	715,000
Number of pupils with SEN; with or without Statements	122,000	128,000	136,000
Percentage of pupils with SEN	15.9	15.9	15.9
Pupils aged 11:			
Total number of pupils	563,000	542,000	548,000
Number of pupils without SEN	417,000	402,000	406,000
Number of pupils with SEN; with or without Statements	146,000	140,000	142,000
Percentage of pupils with SEN	25.9	25.9	25.9
Pupils aged 16:			
Total number of pupils	222,000	—	—
Number of pupils without SEN	197,000	—	—
Number of pupils with SEN; with or without Statements	26,000	—	—
Percentage of pupils with SEN	11.6	—	—

Mainstream state funded and special schools: full time and part time pupils with special educational needs: Coverage: England— Position at January

		Actual	Projections
	2010	2012	2015
Pupils of all ages:		—	—
Total number of pupils	7,506,000	—	—
Number of pupils without SEN	5,881,000	—	—
Number of pupils with SEN; with or without Statements	1,625,000	—	—
Percentage of pupils with SEN	21.6	—	—

Notes:

1. Actual numbers for January 2010 are sourced from data collected via the School Census.
2. Projections are derived by applying the proportion of pupils with SEN in 2010 to future years' pupil projections.
3. Includes pupils with sole and dual registration.
4. No pupil projections are available after 2011 for post 16 year-olds.
5. Mainstream state funded schools comprise maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools; academies and city technology colleges.
6. Rising 5s are those pupils aged four at the previous 31 August who become five by 31 December.
7. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand for pupils and percentages to one decimal place.

Schools: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to prevent bullying and intimidation of Jewish children in schools; what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Jewish community on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [5745]

Mr Gibb: The coalition Government have made tackling all forms of bullying, particularly bullying motivated by prejudice, one of its top priorities. It is not acceptable for a child to be victimised because of their race or religion.

The Government will bring forward measures to strengthen the authority of teachers to enforce discipline and promote good behaviour. The Government support head teachers in taking a zero-tolerance approach to bad behaviour and bullying.

The Secretary of State is due to meet the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Chief Rabbi on 15 July and the Community Security Trust on 22 July. These discussions will cover a range of issues including the safety and security of Jewish pupils.

Schools: Medicine

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when the revised guidance on managing medicines in schools will be published; and by what mechanisms that guidance will be publicised to teachers. [6729]

Mr Gibb: We are currently considering our approach to managing medicines in schools, and in particular what guidance would be helpful for schools. We will provide more information on this when we are in a position to do so.

Schools: Mental Health Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for state-funded schools to be involved in commissioning child and adolescent mental health services at a local level. [5229]

Sarah Teather: When health and local authority commissioners are planning services to meet the mental health needs of children and young people locally they will want to consider the right way to engage with schools so as to get the best possible services to children and families. Schools are also able to use their own budgets to provide services to meet the needs of their pupils, including services to support pupil's emotional wellbeing and mental health.

The national Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) programme was developed to test the effectiveness of evidence-based mental health support in schools for children, young people, and their families. Schools delivering TaMHS commission a range of service procured from voluntary (as well as statutory) sector providers to meet the particular needs of their pupils (e.g. counselling support for children struggling to cope following family breakdown or bereavement). For specialist mental health support for more severe problems, schools may wish to refer pupils to local specialist CAMHS.

The learning from TaMHS on effective commissioning of emotional wellbeing and mental health support and joint working with CAMHS is being shared across schools this year.

While programmes such as TaMHS have been testing what works in developing school based mental health support, any decision about whether to commission these services remains at the school's discretion.

Schools: Transport

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department collects data on the average time taken by children in year *(a)* one, *(b)* seven and *(c)* 12 in each local authority to travel to school; and if he will make a statement. [4913]

Mr Gibb: The Department collects data about pupil's usual modes of travel in the School Census but it does not collect information about the average time taken by children to travel to school.

Schools: Visits

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to require the Independent Schools Inspectorate to publish the reports of its unannounced visits to schools and to make such reports available on its website. [6503]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* ISI rarely makes unannounced visits, as these are normally made in the light of information which suggests that some aspects of the independent schools standards are not being met. Reports from unannounced visits are not automatically published as they may contain sensitive information which could identify the complainant or the identity of members of staff or pupils. Any failures identified would be followed up with the school and if the inspection confirmed there were serious failures, a full inspection would take place leading to a published report.

Science: Education

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to ensure that school science departments work together with high technology employers in their areas. [5873]

Mr Gibb: The Government recognise the benefits to pupils' learning and future career aspirations that partnerships between school science departments and high technology employers can have. But it must be for schools to decide how they develop those relationships as they are best placed to know what is best for their pupils.

There are Government supported programmes in place with which schools can choose to engage and which will help develop this type of relationship. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills currently supports the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Network (STEMNET), which links schools with enhancement and enrichment resources for STEM subjects. STEMNET helps forge links between schools and local employers with the aim of improving and enhancing young people's knowledge and experience of scientific subjects and careers.

Special Educational Needs

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many statements on special educational needs each local authority area has issued in each year since 1997. [5709]

Sarah Teather: Information on new statements of special educational needs issued by local authorities since 1997 is published on the DFE Research and Statistics Gateway in the following publications:

For 1993-98, Table 9 of the Statistical Bulletin "Special Educational Needs in England: January 1999", available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000124/b12-1999.pdf

For 1999-2001, Table 11 of the Statistical Bulletin "Special Educational Needs In England: January 2002", available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000367/index.shtml

For, 2002-04, Table 16 of the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England January 2005", available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000584/index.shtml

For 2005-08, Table 19 of the Statistical First Release "DCSF: Special Educational Needs in England: January 2009", available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/index.shtml

Data on the number of new statements issued for the 2009 calendar year at local authority level is due to be published on 21 July 2010 as an addition to the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2010" at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* statemented and *(b)* non-statemented pupils with special educational needs have been given (i) a fixed period exclusion and (ii) a permanent exclusion in each year since 1997. [5449]

Sarah Teather: Data on the special educational needs status of excluded pupils are collected at the time of exclusion. Information relating to the number of permanent exclusions by SEN status since 1997 is published in table 7 of the Statistical First Release published at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

Data on fixed period exclusions were collected for the first time in 2003/04; in 2005/06 it was collected for secondary schools only. The available information relating to the number of fixed period exclusions (not the number of pupils) by SEN status between 2003/04 and 2006/07 is published in table 8 of the Statistical First Release published at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

The number of fixed period exclusions by SEN status for 2007/08 is available in table 8a of the Statistical First Release published at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

Some analysis has been carried out for 2007/08 on the number of excluded pupil enrolments, as shown in the table. A pupil's SEN status can change between periods of exclusion; therefore data relating to the SEN status of excluded pupil enrolments has been based on their SEN status at the time of their most recent fixed period or permanent exclusion. To carry out this analysis for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3] number and percentage of pupil enrolments receiving one or more fixed period exclusions or a permanent exclusion by special educational needs (SEN) England, 2007/08 (estimates)[4]

	One or more fixed period exclusions		Permanent exclusion[4]	
	Number of pupil enrolments	Percentage of school population[5]	Number of pupil enrolments	Percentage of school population[5]
Statement of SEN[6]	17,970	8.42	700	0.33
SEN without a statement[6]	96,290	7.26	5,080	0.38

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

[5] The number of pupil enrolments who received exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) by SEN, in January 2008.

[6] Pupils' SEN status at the time of their most recent fixed period or permanent exclusion.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Referral Units

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* statemented and (*b*) non-statemented pupils with special educational needs have been placed in (i) pupil referral units and (ii) alternative provision in each year since 1997. [5451]

Sarah Teather: The information requested on pupils with special educational needs in pupil referral units can be found in the following publications, on the DFE Research and Statistics Gateway:

For 2006-10, data can be found in tables 1a and 1b of the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England: January 2010" at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml

For 2001-05, data can be found in tables 1a and 1b of the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England January 2005" at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000584/index.shtml

For 1997-2000, data can be found in tables 1a and 1b of the "Special Educational Needs In England: January 2000" (Bulletin) at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000207/index.shtml

Information on pupils with special educational needs in alternative provision other than pupil referral units is only available from 2008. Data can be found in table C in the Statistical First Release "Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010" at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

Information for pupils with special educational needs in alternative provision for 2008 and 2009 is shown in the table.

Alternative provision: Pupils with and without statements of special educational needs (SEN)[1] January 2008 and 2009 England

	2008	*2009*
Pupils on roll	20,900	21,680
Pupils with statements	13,400	14,560
Percentage[2]	64.1	67.2
Pupils with SEN without statements	1,680	1,760
Percentage[2]	8.0	8.1

[1] Includes sole or dual registered pupils.
[2] The number of pupils with and without statements expressed as a proportion of the number of pupils on roll.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Alternative Provision Census

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bilateral Aid: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his review of bilateral aid programmes will consider which aid instruments are most effective at addressing climate change. [7492]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development has recently commissioned a review of the Department for International Development's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the millennium development goals. Measures to address the effects of climate change will be considered as part of this review.

Brazil: Cattle

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has made to the Government of Brazil on the sustainability of cattle ranching in that country. [7059]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have made no representations to date. The British embassy in Brasilia and Department for International Development staff hold regular discussions with the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Our aim is to support the Ministry's plans to make agriculture, including cattle ranching, more sustainable. The Ministry plans to reduce pressure on deforestation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the cattle sector through innovative land-management practices, smarter fertiliser use and increased pasture yields.

Centres for Disease Control

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for the future funding of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [7004]

Mr O'Brien: As a UK Government Department, we do not provide funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, United States. However, we work closely with them on a number of policy issues including polio eradication, malaria and tuberculosis.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on amending the Common Agricultural Policy to increase long-term stability in food production. [7055]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State has not yet had the chance to discuss this important issue with his EU counterparts.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7399]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) employs one civil servant to write speeches for Ministers.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 625W, on developing countries: climate change, what recent assessment he has made of the merits of the TradeCom programme. [7194]

Mr O'Brien: The European Commission are currently conducting a formal evaluation of the TradeCom programme. The Department for International Development (DFID) will consider this alongside evaluations of other programmes when deciding upon future support to developing countries in trade and climate negotiations.

Developing Countries: Forests

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated in respect of *(a)* forestry programmes and *(b)* reforestation projects in developing countries in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the UKs (i) international development budget and (ii) bilateral aid programme it represented in each case in each such year. [8342]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development's bilateral expenditure on forestry programmes and the proportion this expenditure represents of total UK development aid and DFID's bilateral aid programme, in each of the last 10 years, are in the following table. We are unable to separate spending on reforestation and funding on broader forest development or forest policy without incurring disproportionate cost.

	DFID bilateral forestry (£000)	*% of total UK development aid*	*% of total DFID bilateral*
1999-2000	25,211	0.8	1.9
2000-01	23,373	0.7	1.7
2001-02	25,831	0.7	1.7
2002-03	19,985	0.5	1.1
2003-04	20,074	0.4	1.0
2004-05	15,778	0.3	0.7
2005-06	1,518	0.2	0.6
2006-07	15,620	0.2	0.6
2007-08	7,352	0.1	0.2
2008-09	21,881	0.3	0.7

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish his Department's Maternal Health Strategy; and how that strategy will acknowledge the relationship between maternal health and child health. [7536]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) will publish its business plan for reproductive, maternal and newborn health by the end of 2010. It seeks to increase women's ability to choose when, and how often, they have a child, and to increase the survival of women and babies during pregnancy and childbirth. This will have a significant positive impact on families, economies and societies, as well the health and empowerment of women themselves.

The plan will clearly acknowledge the links between maternal health and child health. Nearly 40% of deaths of children under five occur in the first month of life, up to 45% in the first 24-hours. Preventing unintended pregnancies and ensuring pregnancy and child birth is safe for all mothers and babies make a vital contribution to child health. Recent DFID-supported evidence from Bangladesh shows that a child who has lost their mother has a significantly lower chance of surviving to 10 years old.

Developing Countries: Rivers

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to facilitate improvements in the levels of the sanitation and sustainability of major rivers in the developing world. [7057]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports actions at country, regional and global levels to improve the overall management of water resources, which includes measures to manage pollution and maintain water quality in rivers.

Better water management supports economic growth, increases resilience to climate change and reduces the potential for conflict. In developing countries, DFID is supporting water resource programmes in Sudan (Darfur), Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. DFID also supports improved regional water management in the Nile Basin, South Asia and Southern Africa.

Overseas Aid: Health Services

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish his Department's 2009 health portfolio review. [7192]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's health portfolio review will be published later this year and will be available at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Iain Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's country programmes had health advisors in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [7193]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) had 20 country programmes with health advisors in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and 19 in 2009-10.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is giving to renewable energy projects in Pakistan. [7385]

Mr O'Brien: Renewable energy has not been a priority for the Department for International Development's (DFID's) programme in Pakistan. However, DFID has supported preparations of an implementation plan for the Pakistan Domestic Biogas Programme, which aims to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions per household by 2 tonnes annually. DFID also provided technical advice to the Chief Minister of the Punjab on renewable energy.

The Secretary of State has recently commissioned a review of DFID's aid programmes to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. DFID's programme in Pakistan is being reviewed as part this process.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the relative priority of Yemen relative to his Department's other funding priority countries. [7122]

Mr O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my right hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr Duncan) on 8 July, *Official Report*, column 421W, on Yemen: Overseas Aid.

HEALTH

Agency Nurses: Manpower

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of agency nurses working in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* England. [7200]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect centrally the number of agency staff employed in the national health service in England.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses employed by the NHS are also employed as agency staff. [7201]

Anne Milton: The 2009 NHS Workforce Census shows that there are 395,229 qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff (excl, general practice nurses of which there are 21,935) employed in the national health service in England.

The Department does not collect centrally whether nurses who are employed by the NHS also work as agency staff.

Arthritis: Health Services

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent assessment of the *(a)* performance of the NHS in delivering health services to people with rheumatoid arthritis and *(b)* cost-effectiveness of the provision of such services in relation to the levels of economic productivity of such people; and if he will make a statement. [8366]

Mr Burstow: It is the responsibility of commissioners of health care services to deliver services which are closely matched to the needs of their populations. This includes supporting people with rheumatoid arthritis to enter, return to and remain in employment.

As part of Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population "Working for a healthier tomorrow", 11 Fit for Work Service pilots will integrate with existing health and employment-related structures and services, such as Jobcentre Plus and relevant local partnerships to join up appropriate support for sickness absentees. The pilots will evaluate the benefits of case managed, multi-disciplinary support for individuals in the early stages of sickness absence to ensure an early return to work and prevent long-term unemployment.

As musculoskeletal disorders are one of the most common causes of sickness absence, appropriate support for these will be an integral part of the Fit for Work Service pilots and those with rheumatoid arthritis will receive appropriate and timely treatment.

The Department has not made specific assessments of the performance of the national health service in delivering services to people with rheumatoid arthritis or of the cost effectiveness of the provision of such services in relation to the economic productivity of people with rheumatoid arthritis.

Autism: Children

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research to inform the proposed National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on managing autism in children, with particular reference to effective interventions for children with autism and co-occurring mental health problems. [8376]

Mr Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently developing a clinical guideline on autism spectrum disorders in children and young people. This will be based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medical Research Council already fund a range of research relating to autism. A study currently funded by NIHR on effective therapy for anxiety in young people with autism spectrum disorder is expected to complete in September 2011.

Blood: Cancer

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 527W, on blood: cancer, what progress has been made by those cancer networks which had not implemented all the key recommendations made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in its guidance on improving outcomes in haematological cancers guidance; whether the Government is on track to meet the target of full implementation of the guidance by December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [7752]

Mr Burstow: All 28 cancer networks in England have implemented the clinical service element of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on improving outcomes in haematological cancers. Issues remain about implementation of the guidance on setting up haemato-pathology services across all the cancer networks. The National Cancer Action Team continues to work with cancer networks to support implementation of the guidance across the country by the end of December

2010, but it is possible that a minority of networks will not be in a position to commence activity in this area until early 2011.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of progress on the proposed Cancer Drugs Fund; and if he will make a statement. [7175]

Mr Simon Burns: We are working towards implementing the Cancer Drugs Fund from April 2011. We plan to set out details for the establishment of the fund soon. In the meantime, we are considering what more can be done before this to help patients access the cancer drugs recommended by their clinicians.

Cancer: Health Services

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the maximum time an NHS patient with cancer should have to wait from reporting the onset of symptoms to *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* treatment; and if he will make a statement. [8390]

Mr Burstow: Any patient urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner (GP) should be seen by a specialist and begin the diagnostic process within two weeks, unless they choose to wait longer. If cancer is subsequently diagnosed, these patients, unless there is good clinical reason or patient choice, should begin treatment within 62 days.

In the last period for which statistics are available (Quarter 4 2009-10) 95.6% of patients were seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer. 86.7% of patients began treatment within 62 days of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer.

Statistics on the time a patient waits between referral and diagnosis for cancer are not collected centrally.

Care Homes: Exercise

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage care homes to provide exercise for their residents. [7812]

Mr Burstow: The Care Homes Regulations 2001, supported by National Minimum Standards, require care homes to meet service users' needs and to satisfy their expectations, preferences and social, cultural, religious and recreational interests. This will include, if it is appropriate to service users' wishes and needs, ensuring sufficient opportunities for exercise and recreation.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspects homes against a series of outcomes for residents. Outcome 4—"Care and welfare of people who use services"—states:

> "People who use services should experience effective, safe and appropriate care, treatment and support that meets their needs and protects their rights"

and that care

> "Maintains (their) welfare and promotes their wellbeing by taking account of all their needs, including: physical, mental, social, personal relationships, emotional, daytime activity."

During an inspection visit, CQC will ask providers to demonstrate how they ensure that residents are enabled to take appropriate exercise or participate in suitable activities and will ask residents themselves for their rating of these activities.

UK Older People's Day—to take place on 1 October this year, to coincide with the United Nation's International Day for Older People. This will be the fourth year the day has been celebrated in the UK. For 2010, Older People's Day will have a new theme—"Getting and staying active in later life." Encouraging people to prepare well for and enjoy a positive later life benefits each of us individually and society as a whole. Information is provided at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/ageing-society/full-of-life/

More information on how to get involved with Older People's Day 2010 will be made available over coming months.

Diabetes

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital with a *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis of diabetes there were (i) in all age groups and (ii) amongst those aged 65 years and over in (A) England and (B) each primary care trust area in each of the last 13 years. [7254]

Mr Burstow: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of trends in the prevalence of diabetes *(a)* in the general population and *(b)* amongst those aged 65 years in the last 20 years; and what his most recent estimate is of the prevalence of diabetes in each of those groups. [7255]

Mr Burstow: We know that the number of people being diagnosed with diabetes is increasing. There are a number of reasons for this. It is partly because our population is living longer and partly because of the rise in the number of people who are obese. Improvements in the identification of diabetes have also been made.

The assessment in trends for the general population and those aged 65 years and over for which data are available is shown in the following table.

Prevalence of diabetes, by survey year and age

Percentage

	Survey year			
Doctor-diagnosed diabetes (adults—age)	*1994*	*1998*	*2003*	*2006*
65-74	5.3	6.8	10.1	12.9
75+	6.0	7.4	9.3	11.7
All adults (aged 16 and over)	2.4	2.8	3.9	4.9

Notes:

1. Data are available only from 1994 to 2006

2. Estimates from the Association of Public Health Observatories suggest that in 2010 there are:

3,099,000 people with diabetes (diagnosed and undiagnosed) aged 16 years and older

1,514,000 people aged 65+ with diabetes (diagnosed and undiagnosed).

Source:

Health Survey for England

The Institute of Diabetes for Older People has been commissioned by the Department to undertake a national initiative to enhance the quality of diabetes care for all older people in the United Kingdom. Part of this work involves developing an audit/quality tool to assess the diabetes care within residential and nursing homes. A pilot assessment of a toll is going on in Hertfordshire currently to be completed by October 2010. A larger national audit is being planned for 2011.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what data the Care Quality Commission *(a)* collects and *(b)* holds on the care of people with diabetes resident in adult social care homes; [7256]

(2) what data the Care Quality Commission *(a)* collects and *(b)* holds on the screening for diabetes of people resident in adult social care homes; [7281]

(3) what measures the Care Quality Commission uses to assess the quality of diabetes care for people with that condition who are resident in adult social care homes in England; [7282]

(4) on how many occasions *(a)* the Care Quality Commission and *(b)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection has reported on the quality of diabetes care in adult social care homes in each of the last five years; [7283]

(5) what recent assessment he has made of the quality of care delivered to people with diabetes in care homes. [7286]

Mr Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England and is therefore responsible for assuring the safety and quality of care in care homes.

CQC has provided the following information about its current practices.

Under the current framework, set by the Care Standards Act 2000, CQC does not collect information about the specific health needs of residents, or about the residents themselves. Diabetes is not a primary reason for needing admission to a home so it is not part of the 'client group' data that CQC does collect. In addition, care homes are not required to register as specialist providers of diabetes care.

The same approach applies in terms of screening. No data are specifically collected on diabetes, although providers of residential care are expected to ensure that people have access to community health care services in the same way as people living in their own homes.

Under the new registration framework for health and social care, which will be introduced on 1 October for independent healthcare and adult social care providers (including providers of care homes), all providers of regulated activities have to register with the Commission and meet a set of 16 registration requirements of essential levels of safety and quality.

In relation to diabetes care, the registration requirements include the following: care and welfare of service users, management of medicines, and meeting nutritional needs.

The CQC is responsible for ensuring that providers of regulated activities meet the registration requirements. The Commission has issued its Guidance about Compliance, which explains in more detail about how providers can comply with them.

Neither CQC nor its predecessor, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, have undertaken or published any special studies relating to diabetes care in care homes.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance his Department has issued to providers of adult social care homes on *(a)* screening for diabetes and *(b)* managing the care of residents with diabetes. [7284]

Mr Burstow: The Department has not published specific guidance to providers of adult social care homes on managing people with diabetes. However, Diabetes UK has recently published "Good clinical practice guidelines for care home residents with diabetes" available at:

www.diabetes.org.uk/About_us/Our_Views/Care_recommendations/Good-clinical-practice-guidelines-for-care-home-residents-with-diabetes/

The guidelines cover national policy on good clinical practice for diabetes care within care homes, a framework of assessment of the quality of diabetes care within care homes for use by regulatory bodies that have responsibility for this provision and made key recommendations.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the proportion of residents of care homes who have *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* undiagnosed diabetes. [7287]

Mr Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Department has commissioned the Institute of Diabetes for Older People to undertake a national initiative to enhance the quality of diabetes care for all older people in the United Kingdom. Part of this work involves developing an audit/quality tool to assess diabetes care within residential and nursing homes. A pilot assessment of a tool is going on in Herefordshire currently to be completed by October 2010. A larger national audit is being planned for 2011.

Emergency Calls

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the system for locating the source of medical emergency calls made from rural areas. [8781]

Mr Simon Burns: Incoming 999 emergency calls are for NHS ambulance services to manage locally and no formal assessment has been made centrally. However, where a 999 call is made (either from a landline or mobile phone), location information (the address for calls from a landline and an approximate area for calls from a mobile phone) is provided to the ambulance service by the communications provider. This information is available to all emergency controls either by automatic data transfer or verbally on request. Trusts have been encouraged to invest in the technology that enables automatic data transfer.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what projects on public attitudes to genetically-modified *(a)* crops, *(b)* food and *(c)* feed have been funded by the Food Standards Agency since 1997; what the

(i) topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8031]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has commissioned one research project on public attitudes to genetically modified food, project X04002 "Exploring Attitudes to GM Food" which was carried out by the National Centre for Social Research between April and November 2009. The total cost was £73,654.50 and the final report has been published on the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/gmreportnov09summary.pdf

The FSA previously undertook a range of activities in 2002-03 to complement the Government's "GM Nation?" public debate. These included focus groups (Cragg Ross Dawson and the Scottish Civic Forum, March 2002 and March 2003), a citizen's jury (Opinion Leader Research, April 2003), a schools' debate (March 2003 and a school video (April 2003). The total cost of these activities was £112,935. The report of these activities is published on the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/gm_rep.pdf

Health Services: Ex-servicemen

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on encouraging general practitioners *(a)* to ask whether a patient has served in the armed forces and *(b)* to provide information on support services to ex-service personnel. [8129]

Mr Simon Burns: The former chief medical officer sent a letter to all general practitioners (GPs) in February this year asking GPs to record the status of veterans as part of any referral. GPs have also been given guidance on how to record the status of veterans on their information systems. We are proceeding with plans to improve information systems so that, in future, when military personnel leave the armed forces, they will be provided with information on their entitlement to treatment in the national health service, including priority treatment. Once these are in place, military personnel will be encouraged before they leave the service to fill out a GP registration form which asks whether or not the patient registering is a veteran. The form will then be sent direct to the new GP or given to the veteran to present on registration.

A leaflet setting out what support is available has been produced for service veterans and copies were sent to each GP practice last year. These were produced with the Royal British Legion and we will continue to work with them and with Combat Stress as one of our strategic partners to ensure that the services available for veterans are publicised.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of awareness of general practitioners and other health service providers of the medical assistance programme for ex-service personnel. [8130]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medical Assessment Programme (MAP), based at St Thomas' Hospital, London, is available to veterans who were deployed on operations since 1982. It offers comprehensive physical and mental health assessments for veterans who feel that their ill health may be linked to military service. The MAP can be accessed directly by veterans and their families, as well as through general practitioners (GPs). Although we have made no specific assessment of the level of awareness about this programme, it is publicised through many channels. We have confirmed that £2 million additional funding in the current financial year will be made available for a range of initiatives to improve veterans' mental health and this will include production of training resources for GPs. Discussions are currently in hand with the Royal College of General Practitioners about what form this might take.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department collects on the reasons for which people are admitted to hospital from residential care institutions. [7285]

Mr Burstow: The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care collects and publishes details of all admissions to national health service hospitals in England as hospital episode statistics (HES).

HES includes a field entitled 'Source of Admission'. This field contains a code, which identifies where the patient was immediately prior to admission and which can be used to differentiate between patients admitted from home and patients transferred from another hospital provider or institution.

HES also contains clinical information on patients such as diagnosis, clinically significant co-morbidities and treatments performed. This can be combined with data on the source of admission to allow analysis into the clinical reasons for which people are admitted to hospital from residential care institutions.

Mental Health Services: Children

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that primary care trust commissioners work in partnership with schools in the process for commissioning child and adolescent mental health services at a local level; [7229]

(2) what statutory duties there are on *(a)* adult mental health services, *(b)* adult social services and *(c)* child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) to aid the transition of children who need continuing mental health support from CAMHS to adult services. [7230]

Mr Burstow: In 2006, the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills (now DFE) published 'Transition: Getting it Right for Young People', which provided guidance for primary care trusts and local authorities to ensure that they worked together effectively.

A review of services for disabled children in 2007 found inconsistency in transition support and families were not clear about the purpose of the transition process. The Transition Support Programme (TSP) managed by the Council for Disabled Children is helping all 152 local services (education, health and social care) to develop and work better together, to ensure that young people and their families are at the heart of decisions and plans for the future.

The transition from child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) to adult services is a critical point for young people with complex mental health needs. The Government are developing support to help young people's and adult services improve these transitions to ensure that both the processes and the models of care meet the needs of young people and their families.

In response to the final report of the independent CAMHS review published in November 2008, which was critical of transitional arrangements, a number of pieces of work on the transition between children's and adult mental health care have been set-up. The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), the National CAMHS Support Service (NCSS) and National Mental Health Development Unit (NMHDU) will be collaborating to produce a series of resources to support practitioners and commissioners to provide better care for adolescents and young adults.

The work is being overseen by a steering group on which SCIE, NCSS and NMHDU are represented along with adult and CAMHS, Department of Health and Department of Education representatives. The group meets monthly to co-ordinate the work. Advisory processes for engagement of external stakeholder are currently being agreed.

Local education authorities have a statutory duty to co-operate with other local agencies including health and social care in making transition plans for each child with special educational needs (SEN). The Department and the DFE are working together to ensure that organisations co-operate locally including on CAMHS.

While there are no specific statutory duties on these organisations relating CAMHS, many children and young people with mental health needs also have a Statement of SEN.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group were diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in each of the last 10 years; what medication is available on the NHS to those diagnosed with multiple sclerosis; and if he will make a statement. [8571]

Mr Burstow: Patients living with multiple sclerosis are able to access the full range of medications, as recommended in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for the treatment of this condition. This may include steroids to treat relapses, and the use of disease modifying drugs such as beta interferon, glatiramer acetate, and natalizumab.

Information on the number of people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis each year is not collected centrally.

NHS: Drugs

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plans to review the appraisal of drugs for the treatment of ultra orphan diseases through a process of national specialist commissioning. [8783]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 July, *Official Report*, column 482W.

NHS: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of hospital *(a)* accident and emergency, *(b)* surgical units and *(c)* children's departments in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13 and (iv) 2013-14 of the planned savings of £20 billion in the NHS between 2011 and 2014. [8115]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the effect of local plans on the number of accident and emergency, surgical units and children's departments is not collected centrally.

Decisions on the configuration of local health services are made by local national health service organisations.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of *(a)* nursing, *(b)* midwifery and *(c)* other non-nursing posts in the NHS in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13 and (iv) 2013-14 of the planned savings of £20 billion in the NHS between 2011 and 2014. [8116]

Mr Simon Burns: It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to plan and deliver a work force appropriate to the needs of their local population, based on clinical need and sound evidence; this includes planning their share of the efficiency savings. Their proposed plans will be ready later this year.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to include day care services provided by hospices in the proposed per-patient funding system; [8131]

(2) whether funding under the proposed per-patient funding system will be determined on a local or on a national basis. [8132]

Mr Burstow: There will be a new review into the funding of palliative care, to be chaired by Tom Hughes-Hallett, Chief Executive of Marie Curie Cancer Care. This will look to ensure that money intended to help support those adults and children in need of palliative care is spent in the right way.

The review will make recommendations for a funding system that will cover care provided in all settings by hospices, the NHS or any other appropriate providers. It is due to report during the summer 2011.

NHS: VAT

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the financial effect on the NHS of the proposed increase in the standard rate of value added tax in 2011. [7273]

Mr Simon Burns: The information required to estimate the impact of the proposed increase in value added tax is not held centrally.

Nurses: Manpower

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when estimate has been made of the effect of implementation of recruitment freezes on the number of frontline nursing posts in the NHS. [7845]

Mr Simon Burns: No estimates are held centrally on the effect of recruitment freezes on the number of frontline nursing posts in the national health service.

It is for local NHS organisations to plan and deliver a workforce appropriate to the needs of their local population, based on clinical need and sound evidence. This will require strong leadership and partnership working.

Nutrition: EU Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the community list of permitted health claims, under article 13.3 of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation, to be established; [7884]

(2) when he expects the first batch of article 13.1 health claims under the provisions of the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation, to be adopted; [7885]

(3) what his Department's policy is on the establishment of the community list of permitted article 13.1 health claims in batches. [7886]

Anne Milton: A draft European Commission Regulation authorising the first batch of Article 13.1 health claims on the role of nutrients, or other substances, in the growth, development and the functions of the body (which are subject to procedures set out under article 13.3) was discussed at the 12 July Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health but not agreed. The Commission intends to present an amended proposal to standing committee on 11 October. If the proposal is agreed by member states on that date legislation could come into force around the end of the year.

The Government support the aims of the regulation to provide businesses with clarity in the market and to protect consumers against misleading claims. The European Commission has indicated that it is committed to authorising health claims in response to each batch of opinions. The Government are aware of United Kingdom businesses' concerns and the Food Standards Agency will work closely with UK businesses and enforcement bodies to minimise any negative impact this approach may have on businesses.

Osteoporosis: Health Services

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the Osteoporosis Diagnosis and Prevention scheme on the *(a)* prevalance and *(b)* date of diagnosis of osteoporosis. [7046]

Mr Burstow: The Osteoporosis Diagnosis and Prevention scheme introduced in 2008 within general practitioner (GP) contractual arrangements aims to provide an incentive to GP practices to confirm diagnosis and prescribe appropriate pharmacological secondary prevention in patients. Its purpose is to improve patient care by ensuring that specified patient groups are managed appropriately and in accordance with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance.

Information on prevalence and date of diagnosis is not available centrally. However, financial information from primary care trusts shows that in 2009-10 nearly two-thirds of the available reward monies were paid to GPs for achievement.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure compliance with the commissioning guidance on osteoporosis and fracture services included in the prevention package for older people. [7047]

Mr Burstow: In 2009, as part of the prevention package for older people, the Department issued best practice guidance on "Falls and fractures: effective interventions in health and social care" for organisations to determine how they will implement falls prevention and effective fracture management.

It is for organisations to decide locally how best to deliver services that meet the requirements of their communities. In doing this, local commissioning of services should be community focussed and take account of the full range of services for falls, fractures and osteoporosis.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Consultants

Mr Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what budget his Department has allocated for consultancy in 2010-11. [5927]

Gregory Barker: The Department has allocated a budget of £14,327,220 for the financial year 2010-11.

Departmental Internet

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since its inception. [7608]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008, and its official corporate website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/

was launched on 23 February 2009.

The amount spent on website design by the Department and bodies, since the Department's inception, is as follows:

		£
	Financial year	
Organisation	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Department of Energy and Climate Change	8,435	6,945
Civil Nuclear Police Authority	1,850	1,900
Civil Nuclear Constabulary	5,450	7,902
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	19,895	10,390
The Committee on Climate Change	[1]49,204	9,816
Committee on Radioactive Waste Management	[2]8,000	5,464

[1] Cost of design and set-up of whole site following creation of CCC. Not possible to extract design costs alone.

[2] Cost of management of the whole site. Not possible to extract design costs alone.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since its inception. [7445]

Gregory Barker: Department of Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental bodies spend on hospitality was:

		£000
	Financial year	
	2008-09	*2009-10*
(a) Department of Energy and Climate Change	36	35
(b) non-departmental public bodies	28	24

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since its inception. [7375]

Gregory Barker: The Department was established in October 2008. It spent £298,000 on security from October 2008 to March 2009 and £600,000 in 2009-10.

The Department's non-departmental public bodies spent £322,000 on security in 2008-9 and £361,000 in 2009-10.

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since its inception. [7464]

Gregory Barker: The financial systems used by the Department for Energy and Climate Change and its non-departmental public bodies do not enable all stationery costs to be separately identified. To provide the information would disproportional in terms of cost. Therefore the figures in the table for stationery expenditure also include some printing costs:

		£000
	FY2008-09	*FY2009-10*
(a) Department for Energy and Climate Change	127	420
(b) Non-departmental public bodies	297	307

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since its inception. [7589]

Gregory Barker: The Department spent from its inception in October 2008 the following amounts in each year.

Electricity and heating costs are not separately identifiable without incurring disproportionate cost. In respect of telephone services the costs for 2008-09 are not separately identifiable without incurring disproportionate cost.

		£000
	2008-09	*2009-10*
		n/a = Not available.
Electricity and heating	154	271
Water	17	39
Telephone services	n/a	316

Expenditure by the Department's non-departmental public bodies is as follows.

		£000
	2008-09	*2009-10*
Electricity and heating	469	420
Water	45	20
Telephone services	1,150	1,071

EC Law

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the cost to his Department of compliance with regulations arising from EU obligations in the last 12 months. [6877]

Gregory Barker: Like all employers, Government Departments have to act in accordance with a wide variety of regulation ranging from health and safety to employment, but it is not standard accounting practice to distinguish regulatory compliance costs from overall running costs, whether of EU origin or domestic.

Given the lack of off-the-shelf figures, producing such an estimate on a Department-by-Department basis would be a major undertaking, and would involve disproportionate expenditure. By way of comparison, the Administrative Burdens Measurement Exercise, which provided an indicative estimate of administrative burdens across the UK economy, cost in excess of £10 million to undertake.

Electric Cables

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to undertake strategic environmental assessments of the onshore electricity transmission lines proposed by the Electricity Networks Strategy Group; and if he will make a statement. [6283]

Charles Hendry: The Electricity Networks Strategy Group report "Our Electricity Transmission Network: A Vision for 2020" sets out the Transmission Network companies' view of the potential electricity transmission network investments that would be needed to accommodate the change in the generation mix to 2020. Their report does not require strategic environmental assessment (SEA).

Routes for specific transmission lines are subject to planning approval, and the planning system allows all stakeholders to have their views considered when decisions are made. As part of the process of preparing an application for a transmission line, National Grid will undertake routeing and siting studies in accordance with guidelines that take into account amenity issues including visual and other environmental impacts of proposed lines.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on alternatives for electricity transmission to overhead lines of 132 kilovolts and above; and if he will make a statement. [6284]

Charles Hendry: Electricity transmission in England and Wales is defined as above 132kv. In Scotland transmission is defined as 132kv and above.

It is the responsibility of the transmission owners (TOs) to design and develop the networks in the most efficient manner.

DECC has not undertaken research of its own into this matter.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the replacement of overhead power lines and pylons with underground cables. [8245]

Charles Hendry: It is the responsibility of the transmission owners to design and develop the networks in the most efficient manner, within the regulatory price control review mechanism.

We would expect the transmission owner companies to make a balanced assessment of the benefits of reducing any environmental impacts of overhead electricity transmission lines, including by undergrounding, against the costs and technical challenges of doing so.

Energy: Subsidies

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on subsidies for wind turbines in each year since 1997. [6231]

Charles Hendry: The renewables obligation is currently the Government's main mechanism for supporting renewables generation. It is a market based instrument and the amount received by generators is set by the market. It is therefore not possible to say with certainty how much support has been received by wind generation. However, the following table gives an estimate of the amount of subsidy given out.

	£000 *Total (onshore and offshore)*
2002-03	53,350
2003-04	66,974
2004-05	95,460
2005-06	131,123
2006-07	242,940
2007-08	305,905
2008-09	419,371

In the years between 1997 and 2002 the Government's main mechanism for supporting renewables generation was the non-fossil fuel obligation (NFFO), but data on the amount of subsidy provided for wind are not readily available, and the cost of obtaining it would be disproportionate on this timescale. The renewables obligation was introduced in April 2002. Final figures for the year 2009-10 are not yet available.

The DTI offshore wind capital grants scheme made a net award of £36.0 million to support the development of four early offshore wind farms between 2004-05 and 2009-10.

Grants from the Low Carbon Building Programme (LCBP) as well as Clear Skies are outlined in the following table:

				£
	LCBP—1 and 1e	*Clear Skies*	*LCBP—2 and 2e*	*Total*
2006-07	402,248	941,774	0	1,344,021
2007-08	870,115	0	24,653	894,768
2008-09	623,401	0	1,896,855	2,520,256
2009-10	495,605	0	4,542,395	5,038,000
2010-11	303,635	0	3,657,904	3,961,539
Total	2,695,004	941,774	10,121,807	13,758,584

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on subsidies for hydro-electricity power production in each year since 1997. [6232]

Charles Hendry: The renewables obligation is the Government's main current mechanism for supporting renewables generation. It is a market based instrument and the amount received by generators is set by the market. It is therefore not possible to say exactly how much support has been received by hydro generation. However, the following table gives an estimate of the amount of subsidy given out.

Financial year	[1]*Total (£000)*
2002-03	27,845
2003-04	70,594
2004-05	101,849
2005-06	84,457
2006-07	120,579
2007-08	129,356
2008-09	125,063

[1] Estimate

In the years between 1997 and 2002 the Government's main mechanism for supporting renewables generation was the non-fossil fuel obligation (NFFO), but data on the amount of subsidy provided for hydro are not readily available, and the cost of obtaining them would be disproportionate on this timescale.

The variation between years is mainly due to different levels of rainfall, e.g. 2005-06 was a fairly dry year.

Final figures for the amount of subsidies given out for hydro under the renewables obligation in 2009-10 will not be available until later in the year.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition of the term fuel poverty his Department currently uses; and if he will make a statement. [8707]

Gregory Barker: A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth (usually defined as 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms).

Fuel Poverty: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate has been made of the number of households which will enter fuel poverty in each London local authority area following the introduction of the higher standard rate of value added tax. [7741]

Gregory Barker: The change in the rate of value added tax (VAT) will not have any direct impact on the level of fuel poverty, as the reduced rate of VAT, which applies to domestic heating fuels, will remain unchanged.

Nuclear Power: Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the compatibility of his policy of providing no subsidy for nuclear power with the existing limitation on liabilities on private nuclear power plant operators under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965; [7735]

(2) if he will estimate the potential cost to the public purse of a beyond- design-basis accident at a civil nuclear installation in the United Kingdom that creates liabilities above the existing limitation of liabilities placed on nuclear installation operators; [7737]

(3) what discussions Ministers and officials in his Department have had with companies that have indicated an interest in building new nuclear power plants in the UK on the implications for their investment in new plants of the removal of limitation on liabilities under insurance arrangements covering nuclear installation operators. [7738]

Charles Hendry: The UK has an established and robust regulatory framework that ensures the nuclear industry effectively manages the risks associated with the operation of civil nuclear installations and facilities. As a result of this approach the probability of a beyond-design basis accident is considered to be exceedingly small, the possible costs for which it would not be meaningful to estimate in advance.

There is in place a well-established international regime for regulating liability and compensation for third party damage in the event of an accident. The Nuclear Installations Act 1965 ("1965 Act") implements the UK's obligations under the Paris convention on nuclear third party liability and the Brussels supplementary convention, which we have been contracting parties to since the 1960s. In giving effect to the Paris convention, the 1965 Act limits the liability of nuclear operators to £140 million.

We are currently working on amendments to the 1965 Act to implement the changes to the conventions agreed in 2004. These changes set a minimum operator liability of €700 million but there is discretion to set a higher limit or have it uncapped. In the circumstances we are reviewing the limitation of operators' liability. We have held no discussions with potential new nuclear operators on this issue however we intend to consult on our proposed changes to the 1965 Act, including limitation of liability, later this year.

Office for Nuclear Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reason the Office for Nuclear Development was established as a non-departmental public body; what assessment was made of the merits of establishing it as a unit within his Department; and whether it receives any funding support from the commercial nuclear industry. [8427]

Charles Hendry: The Office for Nuclear Development (OND) is not a non-departmental public body, but a unit within the Department of Energy and Climate Change. It was established in September 2008 to create a one-stop shop within Government to deal with nuclear matters. The OND does not receive any funding support from the commercial nuclear industry.

Utilities: Housing

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of the average household *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity bill in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [8587]

Charles Hendry: For an average consumer using 18,000 kWh of gas per year and paying by standard credit, the average annual domestic gas bill in Great Britain was £328 in 1997 and £717 in 2009, the latest year for which the figures are available. Adjusting for the effects of inflation, in real terms (using 2005 prices) equivalent bills were £393 in 1997 and £649 in 2009.

For an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity per year and paying by standard credit, the average annual domestic electricity bill in the UK was £285 in 1997 and £461 in 2009. Adjusting for the effects of inflation, in real terms (using 2005 prices) equivalent bills were £342 in 1997 and £417 in 2009.

All of this information is available in chapter 2 of the Department of Energy and Climate Change's publication 'Quarterly Energy Prices', which can be found on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

and in the Libraries of the House.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 on fuel poverty since July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [8687]

Gregory Barker: No specific research has been commissioned on the effect of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 on fuel poverty since July 2009.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to bring forward proposals to restrict existing rights to appeal against decisions of the Boundary Commission as part of his proposed reform of constituency boundaries. [7757]

Mr Harper: The current rules for boundary reviews do not provide for an 'appeal' process as such but they do set out arrangements for consultation on the Commission's recommendations. Representations may be made on the provisional recommendations and, upon the publication of revised recommendations, further representations may be made before final recommendations are published.

As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24, a Bill will be introduced before the summer recess to implement the coalition agreement commitment to make provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. Detailed provisions on consultation will be included in the Bill and Parliament will have the opportunity to debate the Bill fully.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what data derived from the 2011 Census he plans to take into account of in his proposed review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries. [7836]

Mr Harper: As my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 24, a Bill will be introduced before the summer recess to implement the coalition agreement commitment to make provision for the creation of fewer and more equal sized constituencies. At the next boundary review, in common with boundary reviews conducted under the existing legislation (the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986), registered electorate will be the basis for the review.

Elections: Registration

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the completeness of the electoral register of individual voter registration. [7758]

Mr Harper: The Government have committed to speeding up the implementation of individual electoral registration and is currently considering the different options for implementation, including ways to maximise the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register, as well as tackling electoral fraud. The Government will inform the House of its plans in due course.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he plans to take to increase the completeness of the electoral register in 2010. [7835]

Mr Harper: The Government will be considering what steps can be taken to improve registration rates in the context of the implementation of individual electoral registration in Great Britain.

Electoral Systems: Referendums

Mr Straw: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the costs of holding a referendum on the alternative vote system. [6350]

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate his Department has made of the cost to Government Departments of administering the proposed referendum on the alternative vote system. [6865]

Mr Crausby: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated cost to the public purse will be of the referendum on the alternative vote. [7846]

Mr Harper: Many of the cost elements of running the proposed referendum on the alternative vote system will be similar to those for a general election. The previous Government estimated the cost for conduct elements of the 2010 general election in Great Britain at £82.1 million, *Official Report*, 30 March 2010, column 1079W. Based on this, and our modelling for the 2009 European and 2010 general elections, it can be estimated that the cost of conduct elements for the proposed referendum will be similar. We have made initial assumptions about the conduct costs of a referendum were it not to be combined with any other polls and on that basis we currently estimate a saving of £17 million on the conduct costs of the referendum through combination.

Additionally, as indicated in the written answer by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Devon (Mr Streeter) of 6 July, *Official Report*, column 144W, the Electoral Commission has estimated that the cost of its own activities in relation to the referendum at £9.3 million.

Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, designated lead campaign organisations are entitled to send a referendum address post free, similar to the entitlement in place for candidates at general elections. The cost of funding this entitlement does not form part of the costs of the conduct of the poll. The Government are considering how this entitlement will apply at the referendum on the alternative vote.

Electoral Systems: Reform

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with the Electoral Commission on the timing of the proposed referendum on the alternative vote system. [6864]

Mr Harper: My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister announced the Government's proposals for a referendum on the alternative vote, on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 23-25. My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister and I have had discussions with the Commission on a number of matters.

European Communities Act 1972

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many representations he has received under the Your Freedom initiative on repeal of the European Communities Act 1972. [8076]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Since launching the Your Freedom online engagement on 1 July, we have had high response levels.

After just seven days we had received 9,796 ideas and 51,957 comments. Within the range of ideas received 59 relate to the European Communities Act (1972).

General Elections

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what information he has *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from the Electoral Commission on the simultaneous holding of the next general election with elections to the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales on 7 May 2015. [7550]

Mr Harper: The Government intend to consult a range of stakeholders in relation to their proposal to introduce fixed-term Parliaments.

Members: Conduct

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to introduce a power of recall of hon. Members by their constituents. [7756]

Mr Harper: The Government are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure for a power of recall. We will bring forward our legislative proposals in due course.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Mr Hanson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he plans to take to implement the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights' on voting rights for prisoners in the UK. [7800]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering afresh the issue of prisoner voting rights.

West Lothian Question

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made on establishing a commission to consider the West Lothian Question. [7834]

Mr Harper: I will be giving consideration to the requirements over the coming weeks and aim to announce our plans for the commission by autumn 2010.

CABINET OFFICE

Electoral Register: Wakefield

Mary Creagh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of *(a)* the size of the adult population and *(b)* the number of people registered to vote in the Metropolitan District of Wakefield. [6722]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what recent estimate has been made of (a) the size of the adult population and (b) the number of persons registered to vote resident in the metropolitan district of Wakefield (6722).

The table below shows (a) the mid-2009 estimated resident population aged 18 and over for Wakefield and (b) the number of people registered to vote in local government elections as at 1 December 2009, resident in Wakefield. These figures are the latest available.

The definition of residency differs between the two figures above. The mid-year population estimates refer to the usually resident population as defined by the standard United Nations definition of residing in an area for at least 12 months, regardless of eligibility to vote. To register to vote in local government elections, a person must be resident in the electoral area. In this context, residency is not defined in law but it has been held by the courts to entail a 'considerable degree of permanence'.

Estimated mid-year population and persons registered to vote, 2009

Metropolitan borough	*Number of people registered to vote 1 December 2009*	*Resident[1] population aged 18+ mid-2009*
Wakefield	248,167	255,000

[1] Population estimates are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Lone Parents: Cynon Valley

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Cynon Valley constituency. [6779]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Cynon Valley constituency. (6779)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary. Cynon Valley, as constituted in 2008, consisted of 13 electoral wards, two fewer than the current constituency. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituency.

Geographical area	Number of lone parent families—with at least one child under 16 (thousand)
Cynon Valley constituency (2008)	3

Source:
APS January to December 2008

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has issued guidance to non-departmental public bodies planned to be abolished on expenditure by them from the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [7531]

Mr Maude: In May 2010 HM Treasury wrote to Government Departments to set out spending controls to contribute to the delivery of £6.2 billion savings in 2010-11. These controls also apply to non-departmental public bodies.

No further guidance has been issued to non-departmental public bodies on their expenditure, and no decisions have yet been made about public bodies planned for abolition.

Personal Income: Wakefield

Mary Creagh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate has been made of *(a)* the average income per household and *(b)* the average income per individual in Wakefield constituency in each of the last five years. [6721]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the uthority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of *(a)* the average income per household and *(b)* the average income per individual in Wakefield constituency in each of the last five years. (6721)

Table 1 shows the estimated average net weekly equivalised household income in Wakefield constituency, both before and after housing costs, in 2007/08, the latest year for which data are available and for 2004/05, the year previous to 2007/08 for which data are available. Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and Council Tax. The incomes are equivalised to take account of each household's size and composition, in recognition of how these affect their standard of living. Data for individuals are not available.

The estimates provided are based on small area statistics published by the ONS. They are classed as experimental statistics which means they have been developed in accordance with the principles set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice but have yet to be fully accredited as National Statistics.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised household income in Wakefield constituency, 2004-05 and 2007-08 [1,2,3]

Table 1: Average net weekly equivalised household income in Wakefield constituency, 2004-05 and 2007-08 [1,2,3]

£ per week

	Mean income before (housing costs)[4]	Mean income (after housing costs)[4]
2004-05	380	340
2007-08	440	380

[1] Incomes are presented net of income tax payments, National Insurance contributions and council tax.

[2] Figures rounded to the nearest £10.

[3] Data for both years are based on the 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries

[4] Housing costs include rent (gross of housing benefit), water charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands: Malvern

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the latest discussions that have taken place between Advantage West Midlands and QinetiQ on the quantum technology project in Malvern. [7765]

Mr Prisk: BIS is aware that Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has been developing a proposal around the Quantum Technology Partnership with QinetiQ. There have as yet been no formal discussions with AWM about their proposal. Individual project funding and investment decisions are for the RDA board, within the context of the RDA budget allocation.

Agriculture: Research

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research projects on public attitudes to the use of pesticides have been funded by each research council; what the (i) research topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; what the lead institution was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8041]

Mr Willetts: None of the seven UK Research Councils have funded any projects on public attitudes to the use of pesticides.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research projects on marker-assisted plant breeding *(a)* each research council and *(b)* the Science and Technology Facilities Council has funded since 1997; what the (i) research topic, (ii) start date, (iii) cost and (iv) project code was of each such project; what the lead institution was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8042]

Mr Willetts: The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) has undertaken research into marker-assisted plant breeding, but the cost of collating the information in the form requested would be disproportionate.

None of the other research councils have undertaken research into marker-assisted plant breeding.

Broadband

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to expand the provision of superfast broadband. [8695]

Mr Vaizey: As stated in the coalition's joint programme for government, we will seek to introduce superfast broadband across the country. On 8 June, the Secretary of State for Culture, the Olympics, Media and Sport set out the Government's plans for ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by the end of the Parliament.

These plans include enabling access to existing infrastructure to reduce the cost of deployment, and we will be launching a discussion document on how best to do this on 15 July. Ofcom are at the same time taking forward work looking at the potential for other operators to use BT's existing infrastructure. Further, the Secretary of State has proposed three market testing projects for superfast broadband in rural areas, to be paid for with money left over from the Digital TV switchover helpscheme. The venues for these projects are currently under consideration.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that rural areas have access to high speed broadband; and if he will make a statement. [8354]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* As stated in the coalition's joint programme for government, we will seek to introduce superfast broadband in remote areas at the same time as in more populated areas. On 8 June, the Secretary of State for Culture, the Olympics, Media and Sport set out the Government's plans for ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by the end of the Parliament.

These plans include enabling access to existing infrastructure to reduce the cost of deployment, and we will be launching a discussion document on how best to do this on 15 July. Further, the Secretary of State has proposed three market testing projects for superfast broadband in rural areas, to be paid for with money left over from the Digital TV switchover helpscheme. The venues for these projects are currently under consideration.

Broadband: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to expand the provision of broadband in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8209]

Mr Vaizey: On 8 June, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, the Olympics, Media and Sport set out the Government's plans for ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by the end of the Parliament. These plans include enabling access to existing infrastructure to reduce the cost of deployment. Further, the Secretary of State proposed three market testing projects schemes for superfast broadband in rural areas.

As a first step towards this ambition, the Government are also committed to making a service level of 2Mbps available in towns and villages still without a basic level of access. The office charged with delivering this Universal Service Commitment, Broadband Delivery UK, will be holding an industry event in July to provide further information on the approach to meeting the 2Mbps service commitment and the market testing schemes.

Business: Government Assistance

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of *(a)* Business Link and *(b)* publicly-funded business support in the north east. [6997]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to replacing regional development agencies with local enterprise partnerships. We are working with the regional development agencies (RDAs) to enable this transition. We are reviewing all the functions of the RDAs and we believe some of these are best led nationally, including responsibility for business support. The forthcoming White Paper on sub-national economic growth will set out our approach in more detail.

Business: Investment

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to raise levels of business investment in research and development. [7095]

Mr Willetts: The Chancellor announced in the emergency Budget that we will consult with business in autumn 2010 to review the taxation of intellectual property, the support R and D tax credits provide for innovation and the proposals of the Dyson Review. The coalition agreement makes it clear that we are committed to refocusing the R and D tax credit on hi-tech companies, small firms and start ups as recommended by Sir James Dyson.

The Government have also set out its intention to create the most competitive corporate tax system in the G20. The Chancellor announced that the corporation tax headline rate will be reduced from 28% to 24% over four years and that the small companies rate will be reduced to 20%.

Internet: Wi-fi

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from proprietors of cafes, bars and other premises offering wireless internet access to customers on the effects on them of the provisions on illegal file-sharing in the Digital Economy Act 2010. [8668]

Mr Vaizey: As part of the consultative process prior to the Bill's introduction, this Department received representations from various organisations which offer wi-fi internet access including some of the major internet service Providers (ISPs) and higher educational establishments. These can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/Consultations/illicit-p2p-file-sharing?cat=closedwithresponse

In addition, officials sought views from and had meetings with educational and cultural organisations such as universities, museums and libraries who offer wi-fi access. There were also several meetings with individual commercial companies and trade bodies from the hospitality, hotel, and holiday park sectors.

Radio Frequencies

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that those who own programme making and special events equipment due to be rendered redundant as a result of the clearance of the 600 MHz and 800 MHz spectrum are not left any worse off as a result of the changes; [7663]

(2) on what terms the Government will provide compensation to those in the programme making and special events sector whose wireless equipment will be rendered redundant as a consequence of the clearance and sale of the digital dividend spectrum. [7664]

Mr Vaizey: Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) users were given notice in 2005 by Ofcom that they would have to vacate channels 31-37 (600 MHz spectrum) and 63-68 (800 MHz spectrum) by 2012, and in 2007 that channels 61-62 (800 MHz spectrum) would no longer be available for use. Ofcom considers this an acceptable period of notice for users to react and are not obliged to offer compensation or to find alternative spectrum. However, Ofcom has said that most of the 32 channels retained for digital terrestrial television after Digital Switchover in the 600 MHz band will still be available on an interleaved basis for PMSE and it is confident there will be enough spectrum in individual locations to more than satisfy historic peak demand.

Ofcom will be able to say more about precise frequencies in specific locations later this year, following the outcome of negotiations with neighbouring countries.

After Ofcom's 2005 statement, users had legitimately been expecting to use channel 69 (in the 800 MHz spectrum) for PMSE until 2018, and therefore as Government agreed with a proposal to change the use of this channel, Government will ensure PMSE users will be compensated for being moved from channel 69.

This Government are now considering options on the appropriate level of compensation, taking into account how we can best ensure users are neither better nor worse off, what sort of precedent a compensation scheme would set, and whether it would be lawful. Equally important, in particular in the current financial climate, is the need to appropriately safeguard and make efficient use of taxpayers' money. A decision will be taken as soon as possible.

JUSTICE

Bailiffs: Misconduct

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders were issued to bailiffs for execution in each of the last five years; and how many complaints *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Courts Service has received alleging misuse by bailiffs of powers granted by the courts to execute such orders in each such year. [7008]

Mr Djanogly: Court orders for execution by bailiffs are issued in both the county court and the magistrates court.

All warrants issued by the county court are executed by in house bailiffs and the details of the orders issued are in the following table.

Calendar year	*Execution*[1]	*Delivery*[2]	*Possession*[3]	*Committal*[4]
2005	341,097	2,382	131,510	1,844
2006	340,078	2,121	144,990	1,757
2007	310,178	2,359	146,120	1,647
2008	294,823	2,500	159,337	1,353
2009	236,293	2,307	139,131	1,103

[1] Allows saleable items owned by the debtor to be sold unless the amount due under the warrant is paid.
[2] For the return of goods or items.
[3] For the repossession of property.
[4] For enforcing an order where the penalty for failing to comply is imprisonment. It authorises the bailiff to arrest and deliver the person to prison or the court.

Warrants issued by the magistrates courts are executed by both in house Civilian Enforcement Officers (CEOs), where HMCS employ them, and by private Enforcement Agents under contract to HMCS (AEAs).

The following table gives details of the warrants issued to these two categories. These data are only available from 2006-07 onwards and the final figures for 2009-10 are not yet available.

Financial year	*Issued to AEAs*[1]	*Issued to CEOs*[2]
2006-07	721,000	598,000
2007-08	648,000	606,000
2008-09	613,000	484,000

[1] Covers warrants, for HMCS areas, for distress and clamping, which allows saleable items owned by the debtor to be sold unless the amount due under the warrant is paid and warrants for arrest for non payment of financial orders or non compliance with Community Penalty orders for HMCS areas where CEOs are not employed.
[2] Covers warrants for arrest for non payment of financial orders or non compliance with Community Penalty orders.

As regards complaints alleging misuse by bailiffs of powers granted by the court. HMCS has a complaint recording system which requires staff to record customer dissatisfaction. However it does not specifically collect data about alleged misuse of bailiff powers but in a more general format of complaints about the way a bailiff has handled a warrant.

The following table indicates the number of such complaints that have been received.

Financial year	*County Court warrants*	*Magistrates warrants*
2006-07	369	154
2007-08	442	155
2008-09	475	135
2009-10	423	249

The actual number of these complaints that specifically alleged misuse of powers could be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual search of the individual complaint files.

Departmental Expenditure

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since its inception; [7324]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on information and communication technology in each year since its inception; [7343]

(3) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since its inception; [7362]

(4) how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997; [7431]

(5) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since its inception; [7450]

(6) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since its inception; [7469]

(7) how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on logo design in each year since its inception; [7488]

(8) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since its inception; [7512]

(9) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since its inception; [7575]

(10) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since its inception; [7594]

(11) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on website design in each year since its inception; [7613]

(12) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on light bulbs in each year since its inception; [7632]

(13) how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee training since its inception. [7654]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has four Executive agencies and sponsors nine Executive non-departmental public bodies plus 35 probation trusts, most operate separate accounting systems and processes. The information requested is currently being collated and verified. I will write to the hon. Member once this process is complete, which will hopefully be before the House rises for the summer recess.

Departmental Regulation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which of his Department's regulations are under review; and if he will make a statement. [7142]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are currently completing a review of regulatory measures planned for introduction by the previous Government over the coming year and listed in the Forward Regulatory Programme published March 2010

http://www.bis.gov.uk/bre

The purpose of the Forward Regulatory Programme is to improve the management and scrutiny of new regulations as they are developed to reduce burdens on businesses. The programme only includes those regulations that have an impact on the private and third sectors.

These regulations will not be implemented until they have been reviewed and re-agreed by the Reducing Regulation Cabinet Committee.

The MoJ will be considering suggestions made through the 'Your Freedom' exercise which is currently asking the public for their ideas to reduce pointless regulation and unnecessary bureaucracy.

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/07/your-freedom-52709

Departmental Security

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on security in each year since its inception. [7380]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Expenditure on security across the Ministry of Justice's estate covers a wide array of items, including guarding contracts, physical barriers, CCTV, specialist lighting, staff training, information security and IT encryption, as well as the cost of security teams.

Budgets are devolved to the Ministry's agencies and non-departmental public bodies who then apply them as required. Funding for security is not recorded separately. To extract security costs from the general planned maintenance budget and other provisions in the many and disparate MoJ establishments in England and Wales would incur a disproportionate cost to collate.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7398]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: One member of staff is employed as a speechwriter to draft speeches for me and to provide support on speeches to be made by other ministers in the Ministry of Justice. Two special advisers work to me, performing a range of duties, including advice and comments on drafts of speeches. No other civil servants or other individuals are employed to write speeches in the Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Travel

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7966]

Mr Blunt: The Secretary of State, the Minister of State for Justice (MOJ) and the two Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State at the Ministry of Justice currently have use of an allocated ministerial car during the week.

The Home Office provides the arrangements in relation to the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice, who also has ministerial responsibilities at the Ministry of Justice.

The number of officials who have been driven by the Government Car Service since this Government took office is not held centrally and could be provided only by contacting every division within MOJ at a disproportionate cost.

MOJ staff, including Ministers and the Department's two special advisers have access to the use of a taxi ordered through departmental taxi accounts or to a car ordered through the Government Car and Despatch Agency. Both the taxi account and the Car and Despatch Agency may only be used in exceptional circumstances which may include:

> by the time you cease work either public transport is not available for your journey from work to home or it would not be reasonable to expect you to use public transport
>
> or when heavy baggage has to be transported for work-related reasons.

Ministerial and staff business travel is procured and paid for by the Department prior to travel. Where Ministers and staff have personally paid for business travel; they may be reimbursed by submitting a travel and subsistence claim to the Department. Since the Government took office up to and including 8 July, there have been no such claims made by Ministers or their private office staff. Information is not held centrally for staff in the wider MOJ and could be provided only by examining individual expense claims at a disproportionate cost. However, we are looking at ways in which this information will be centrally recorded in the future.

The new Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, contains changes that affect Ministerial entitlement to travel by Government car. It states that:

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed."

The Department for Transport and its Government Car and Despatch Agency are working with Departments to effect the transition to the new arrangements.

The Ministerial Code is available on the Cabinet Office website.

Information Commissioner's Office: Standards

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in ensuring that records management and data processing are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the legislation for which the ICO is a regulator. [7124]

Mr Djanogly: The ICO is the independent authority responsible for compliance with and enforcement of the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2005.

It is not the role of the Ministry of Justice, and neither does it have the powers, to assess the ICO's compliance with the legislation that the Office is responsible for regulating. However, the ICO conducts regular internal audits which ensure that its policies and procedures remain subject to scrutiny and review. In addition, regular meetings take place between the Department and the ICO to discuss a range of matters, including the ICO's performance, compliance and audit reports.

Prison Service: Budgets

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget was set for HM Prison *(a)* Manchester, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* Liverpool in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [8111]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out in the following table:

£

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Manchester	35,287,000	35,535,000
Birmingham	30,369,525	29,122,082
Liverpool	26,754,377	25,049,397

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget was set for *(a)* Merseyside, *(b)* West Midlands and *(c)* South Wales probation area for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [8112]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is set out in the following table:

£

	2009-10	*2010-11*
Merseyside	32,750,965	30,799,120
West Midlands	57,483,893	73,995,000
South Wales	25,563,052	54,757,600

The increase in 2010-11 for West Midlands reflects the wider merged trust of Staffordshire and West Midlands and the increase in 2010-11 for South Wales reflects the wider merged trust of Wales.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of methods of assessing the risk of re-offending of inmates prior to release from prison. [7546]

Mr Blunt: For those prisoners subject to a determinate sentence of at least 12 months or subject to an indeterminate sentence (life or IPP), an assessment is made at the pre-release stage through the Offender Assessment System (OASys). OASys includes two predictors of reoffending, the OASys general reoffending predictor (OGP) and the

OASys violence predictor (OVP). OVP predicts reoffending involving non-sexual violence, while OGP predicts most other reoffending. The research underpinning these predictors is available on the Ministry of Justice website (Research Summary 2/09 and Research Series 16/09). Validity checks demonstrated that both OGP and OVP substantially improved prediction compared to previous tools.

An OASys basic custody screening, to be used with all sentenced prisoners, is currently being piloted in Yorkshire and Humberside with the intention of rolling out nationally. This screening includes the Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS) which predicts all types of reoffending. The validation of OGRS version 3 can also be found on the Ministry of Justice website (Research Summary 7/09).

Reoffenders: Ex-servicemen

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what help and advice is available for former military personnel who enter the criminal justice system, with particular reference to schemes to reduce levels of reoffending. [7867]

Mr Blunt: A broad range of services and interventions are delivered generally to offenders across custody and the community to meet particular needs and address offending behaviour. There are a number of accredited offending behaviour programmes addressing thinking skills, anger management, domestic and other types of violent crime as well as sexual offending. A range of interventions is available for offenders with an alcohol or drug problem. Other activities across prison and probation such as training, education, work, non accredited courses, specialist support and resettlement may also have a significant part to play.

The Ministry of Justice works closely with independent organisations that provide services specifically for veterans, and across Government to raise awareness among ex-service personnel of the help and support available to them and their families while they serve a prison or community sentence.

Contact details are provided for the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), The Royal British Legion (TRBL), Soldiers Sailors Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help and Combat Stress. Posters detailing the types of support provided by these agencies are distributed and displayed widely across the prison estate and in Probation offices. Prison officers and offender managers now have direct access to the SPVA website.

Ministry of Defence funded mental health services provide support to veterans in prison as well as those in the community. The MoD funded Medical Assessment programme provides specialist military mental health advice for veterans in prison referred to them by prison medical staff. The programme has been extended to include reservists mental health for those who have deployed since 2003.

Many prison governors have managed to appoint a local point of contact for co-ordinating and promoting services as part of the model of practice promoted in the Guide, "Veterans in Custody Support-A Guide" which has been distributed to all prison establishments.

Many prison and probation staff are veterans themselves and bring further experience and understanding.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Location

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for what reasons officials working for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority are working in central London; what consideration was given to locating them in a less expensive part of the country; and if he will make a statement. [7894]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA advises me that the merits of basing IPSA in a location other than Westminster were considered early in IPSA's implementation phase. It was concluded that the most appropriate location for IPSA's permanent home was central London, within a reasonable distance of the Palace of Westminster. This decision was taken to minimise the risk of disruption during the handover period between the old system administered by the House of Commons and IPSA's new system, not least in respect of the potential impact on those staff transferring from the House of Commons to IPSA.

Manpower

Mr Anderson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on provision of additional staff resources for hon. Members to assist with the processing of claims for allowance payments. [8098]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA does not provide additional staff resources specifically to assist with the processing of claims under the MPs' expenses scheme. If MPs are unable to remain within their staffing budget for the current financial year, they can apply to IPSA for support from the contingency fund. All such applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

Members: Allowances

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what procedures the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will adopt to reimburse hon. Members for London Area Living Allowance for the period between the date of the general election and the date on which the initial claim for that allowance was submitted. [7679]

Mr Charles Walker: The MPs' expenses scheme does not allow the London Area Living Payment to be paid in respect of any period before IPSA is notified that an MP intends to claim it. Consequently, IPSA is not able to backdate any such claims to the date of the general election.

Mr Anderson: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has assessed the merits of introducing a paper-based system for claiming allowance payments. [8097]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA has advised me that the merits of introducing a paper-based system for claiming expenses were considered during the start-up phase of IPSA. It was concluded that in line with current expectations of IT-led delivery within the public sector, it would be inappropriate to design a new expenses process which was not based at least in part on an IT-led solution.

IPSA remains of the view that an IT-led, rather than paper-based, system is most appropriate. Using an IT-led solution allows IPSA to achieve a high level of transparency more easily and cheaply than an equivalent manual approach. It will also allow any future changes to processes to be more easily implemented.

Members: Rail Travel

Ann McKechin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on reimbursement of hon. Members for first class rail travel on sleeper services in circumstances where single berths are not available on such services at fares equal to or less than the standard open ticket tariff *(a)* with and *(b)* without a supplement. [8043]

Mr Charles Walker: The MPs' expenses scheme only allows the costs of economy/standard class tickets or the equivalent to be reimbursed. MPs travelling on sleeper train services are additionally entitled to claim for sleeper supplements, for either a single occupancy berth or a share of a twin occupancy berth. Both companies which provide sleeper train services within the UK will allow travellers to purchase either berth as a supplement to a standard class ticket.

The total cost of the ticket plus sleeper supplement may be higher than the price of a standard open ticket. Therefore, as the guidance to the scheme states at paragraph 7.7, the total cost will be reimbursed in these cases.

IPSA believes that this will allow Members to obtain a single berth on all sleeper services. Where this is not the case, IPSA would welcome evidence from Members.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 July 2010

SCOTLAND

Departmental Civil Servants

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees of his Department attended Civil Service Live in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010; and what estimate he has made of the (i) employee working hours taken up by and (ii) cost to his Department of such attendance in each such year. [9057]

David Mundell: No Scotland Office staff attended Civil Service Live in 2008, 2009 or 2010.

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7345]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Government, who are responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system, including the provision of hardware and software. The Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate-General are charged a share of the costs based on the number of our workstations provided. The costs are highlighted in the following table:

	Expenditure (£)
2000-01	46,770
2001-02	77,600
2002-03	76,242
2003-04	75,699
2004-05	68,551
2005-06	66,289
2006-07	106,193
2007-08	115,073
2008-09	114,868
2009-10	108,942

Information relating to 1999-2000 is not available.

Departmental Meetings

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what meetings he had with each ministerial colleague between 30 May and 22 June 2010; and what matters were discussed at each such meeting. [8771]

Michael Moore: Since being appointed, I have had many meetings with ministerial colleagues at which I have discussed a wide range of issues.

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* electricity, *(b)* water, *(c)* heating and *(d)* telephone services in each year since 1997. [7596]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, the following expenditure has been incurred:

				£
	Electricity	*Water*	*Gas (heating)*	*Telephone services*
1999-2000[1]	11,855	1,067	43,024	20,164
2000-01	22,807	3,656	78,224	103,492
2001-02	19,526	4,221	94,866	99,709
2002-03	28,439	7,018	88,244	90,379
2003-04	23,703	11,699	88,085	94,944
2004-05	23,372	13,666	96,362	80,484
2005-06	21,650	9,867	106,883	86,560
2006-07	36,488	14,140	105,968	76,286
2007-08	26,481	14,216	78,669	82,793
2008-09	30,728	11,582	100,262	90,785
2009-10	33,809	13,694	63,057	108,716

[1] Part year.

Economic Situation: Scotland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which organisations he met between 30 May and 22 June 2010 to discuss the *(a)* state of the economy in Scotland and *(b)* effects on Scotland of the June 2010 Budget. [8772]

Michael Moore: In the run-up to the Budget on 22 June I had numerous discussions with a wide range of organisations on the state of the Scottish economy and during this time I received many representations with regard to the forthcoming Budget.

Merchant Shipping

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers and ministerial colleagues on the date for the coming into force of the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010. [8546]

Michael Moore: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport made a written ministerial statement on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 14WS, in which he explained the reasons why the Government have decided to defer the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship transfers) Regulations 2010 coming into force pending their review. He also wrote to the Scottish Government, to all interested MPs and relevant industry and environmental bodies to advise them of the contents of the Statement.

Trade Unions: Shipbuilding

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met trades union representatives of employees at *(a)* Rosyth and *(b)* Clyde shipyards to discuss the shipbuilding industry in Scotland. [8773]

Michael Moore: I recognise the importance of the shipbuilding industry to Scotland's economy. I will meet Babcock management and union representatives in Rosyth later this month. It is also my intention to visit BVT of the Clyde in the near future.

Voting Systems: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) when and by what means he informed *(a)* the First Minister, *(b)* the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, *(c)* the Electoral Commission in Scotland and *(d)* electoral returning officers in Scotland of the Government's proposals to hold a referendum on the alternative vote system on 5 May 2011; [7837]

(2) what consultation he plans to undertake with *(a)* the Scottish Executive, *(b)* the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, *(c)* the Electoral Commission in Scotland, *(d)* electoral registration officers in Scotland and *(e)* the public in Scotland on holding of a referendum on the alternative vote system on 5 May 2011. [8025]

Michael Moore: It was right that Parliament was informed of our intentions first and therefore following the Deputy Prime Minister's statement on 5 July, I wrote to the First Minister, the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, other party leaders, and the Scottish Parliament's independent MSP, informing them that we will be holding a referendum on the alternative vote system on 5 May 2011. Holding it on the same day as the Scottish Parliament elections will reduce the cost to the taxpayer and make it more convenient for voters.

The Deputy Prime Minister has held discussions with the Electoral Commission on a number of matters relating to the referendum, including around the timing. In due course, I will be discussing the arrangements for the referendum in Scotland with the Electoral Commission in Scotland and Scottish electoral administrators, among others.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military personnel are involved with (i) the training of Afghan police and (ii) other work involving the Afghan police. [5200]

Dr Fox: Developing the Afghan National Police (ANP) is an essential part of the counter-insurgency strategy in Afghanistan, and the UK contribution to developing the ANP is part of a wider international effort. Ultimately, building the capacity of the ANP will allow the Afghan Government to take responsibility for security and allow us to bring UK troops home.

Around 175 UK military personnel provide support to the development of the ANP in three main ways: through embedding staff officers in NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A) Headquarters; by providing trainers and support to NTM-A training institutions; and, through the training and partnering of deployed ANP in Helmand province. In addition to this, large numbers of UK military work with the ANP on a day to day basis as a consequence of embedded partnering.

The UK has around 35 civilian policing experts training and mentoring the ANP who serve in the EU Policing Mission, NTM-A institutions, and in Helmand Province.

Armed Forces: Families

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what counselling, advice and support services his Department provides for families of military personnel; and if he will make a statement. [8569]

Mr Robathan: Counselling, advice and support services are an important area, and such support can be valuable to bereaved families. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been working with the national bereavement charity CRUSE and the Department of Health to provide bespoke counselling services for armed forces families, but we recognise that such counselling is not necessarily best provided by the MOD. We aim to signpost the most appropriate counselling services for armed forces families which are often provided by non-military bereavement specialists. The three services have funding mechanisms in place to allow families to access the most appropriate counselling services once a need has been identified.

Additionally, families' activity breaks are being run in conjunction with the Youth Hostels Association to provide breaks for bereaved families where informal counselling is available for children.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to support families of armed forces personnel. [8635]

Mr Robathan: There are considerable resources available to support service families at the level of the Royal Navy Ship, Army Regiment or Royal Air Force station. These resources are usually co-ordinated by a dedicated unit welfare officer who is able to assess what sort of support is required and then make bespoke arrangements for appropriate provision, accessing relevant service, local authority or charitable sector specialists where necessary. The resources include:

Professional social workers;

Station and unit community groups including HIVE information centres;

Families Welfare Grant money to support of families of deployed personnel;

Confidential support lines;

Families' federations

Dedicated support groups for the bereaved (SSAFA-Forces Help).

We are also committed to rebuilding the military covenant and have identified a number of areas that will allow us to do so. These measures are listed in our Programme for Government that was published on 22 May.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding his Department provided for rehabilitation of injured service personnel in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* England in the last 12 months. [8710]

Mr Robathan: The Defence Medical Services manage an extensive armed forces rehabilitation network which meets a wide range of requirements, including treatment for operational casualties. The network includes primary care rehabilitation facilities and 13 Regional Rehabilitation Units (RRUs) across the UK (plus two in Germany). There is one RRU in Northern Ireland (Aldergrove) and one in Scotland (Edinburgh); the other 11 are at locations convenient for centres of major military population across England. In addition, we have the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey, where seriously wounded servicemen and women are normally treated following the completion of their secondary care.

Funding for the treatment of wounded personnel has been, and will continue to be, made available to match clinical requirements, including surges in casualty numbers. Our future budgetary plans assume a continuing need for additional investment in facilities and staff at Headley Court, whose annual running costs in 2009-10 were some £20 million. Responsibility for the individual management of the primary care facilities is shared between the single Service Commands, with oversight from the Joint Medical Command. Owing to the number of different internal budgets to which costs would be attributable, any detailed analysis of local rehabilitation expenditure would therefore incur disproportionate costs. Likewise, the RRUs operate as lodger units within different military facilities, with a range of funding arrangements, and comprehensive financial data is not readily available.

Where an individual requires specialist rehabilitation services or equipment that can best be provided by a non-MOD organisation (such as some aspects of neurological rehabilitation and specialised prosthetics) this will be arranged at additional cost. In the financial year 2009-10, about £3.4 million was spent on such services by the Joint Medical Command.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he plans to take to increase the level of maintenance and refurbishment of armed forces' accommodation; [8633]

(2) what plans he has for the construction of new service accommodation in the UK. [8634]

Mr Robathan: The coalition Government place a high priority on the welfare of service personnel and their families. In the Strategic Defence and Security Review we will prioritise the needs and accommodation of defence personnel and their families.

We will continue to ensure that accommodation is maintained to a high standard and improved where possible, including the construction of new or refurbishment of existing accommodation in the UK and elsewhere.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* army, *(b)* RAF and *(c)* Royal Navy personnel are from (i) Strangford constituency and *(b)* Northern Ireland. [8711]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the format requested, however details of those recruited through the Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO) in Belfast, the Army Career Information Offices (ACIO) in Coleraine, Enniskillen, Portadown, and from the Royal Navy's Officer Career Liaison Centre, give an indication of Northern Ireland recruitment into the armed forces in the following table.

Please note however that this information will not provide a comprehensive picture of individuals recruited from Northern Ireland as it does not include those recruited through AFCOs elsewhere or through other means, such as the internet. In addition, Army Officer figures are not provided as these Officers tend to be recruited through a wider variety of means and any information provided would not be meaningful in this context.

FY 2009-10

	AFCO Belfast	*ACIO Coleraine*	*ACIO Enniskillen*	*ACIO Portadown*	*Officer Careers Liaison Centre*
Naval Services	45	—	—	—	4
Army	140	42	66	68	—
RAF	26	—	—	—	—

Armed Forces: Vocational Guidance

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what counselling and advice facilities are available for military personnel during and immediately after service to reduce the chances of their entering the criminal justice system. [7866]

Mr Robathan: We do not provide counselling and advice facilities for military personnel during and immediately after service specifically to reduce their chances of entering the criminal justice system.

Recent analysis by Defence Analytical Services and Advice has estimated the number of veterans in prison establishments in England and Wales to be almost 3% of the prison population.

All personnel are entitled to receive some form of resettlement provision. This ranges from a comprehensive package of re-training; employment advice; free of charge access to career transition workshops; and access to career advisers. Those who serve less than four years receive a mandatory resettlement brief and a one-to-one resettlement interview within their unit before they discharge. These cover advice on accessing re-employment services such as Jobcentre Plus, advice on housing, the assistance available from ex-service welfare organisations and information about preserved pensions and compensation rights. If, as part of this process, an individual is deemed to be vulnerable to social exclusion then some specialist support is also provided by Service resettlement advisers.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5965]

Nick Harvey: The requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-Servicemen: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans' lapel badges have been issued to former members of the armed forces resident in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency. [8222]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held in the format required and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, as of 9 July 2010, 793,479 veterans' lapel badges have been issued to former members of the armed forces and their entitled dependents since its introduction on 10 April 2004.

Red Arrows

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs, excluding asset depreciation, of the Red Arrows were in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how much the Royal Air Force received in *(a)* sponsorship, *(b)* appearance fees and *(c)* other payments in respect of the Red Arrows in that period. [3924]

Nick Harvey: Officials are collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Nick Harvey to Mike Hancock:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 29 June, (Official Report, column 483W) about the running costs, excluding depreciation, of the Red Arrows for the last 12 month period for which figures are available and how much the Royal Air Force received in (a) sponsorship (b) appearance fees and (c) other payments in respect of the Red Arrows.

The running costs (excluding asset depreciation and receipts) for the Red Arrows for financial year 2009-2010 were £9.35 million.

Over the same period, in respect of the Red Arrows, the RAF received items to the equivalent value of some £85,000 in sponsorship, £425,000 in appearance fees and £14,000 in merchandising Royalties.

Reserve Forces

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to ensure that reserve soldiers receive the same support as regular soldiers following overseas deployment. [7010]

Mr Robathan: Members of the reserve forces and their families receive the same type of support and welfare packages that are provided for regular personnel following overseas deployment.

In addition, reservists benefit from legal protection of their employment under the Reserve Forces (Safeguard of Employment) Act 1985.

JUSTICE

Crime: Voluntary Work

Mr Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences relating to *(a)* financial, *(b)* physical and *(c)* sexual abuse, where the offender was not a family member but working in a voluntary capacity with the victim there were between 1995 and 2005. [6517]

Mr Blunt: The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. These data include information on the age of the defendant, their gender, the police force area and court where proceedings took place as well as the specific offence and statute for the offence. Other than where specified in the statute information held centrally does not identify a defendant's employment status or whether the defendant was working in a voluntary capacity.

Gary Critchley

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 614-5W, on Gary Critchley, whether Gary Critchley's detention under the Mental Health Act 1983 has increased the time he has been required to serve in prison under the life sentence he received for murder. [8364]

Mr Blunt: As I advised in my reply of 1 July, Mr Critchley is serving a life sentence for murder. His detention in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 does not change the position that, as a mandatory life sentence prisoner, his re-release on licence is a matter for the Parole Board. The board will not consider his case while his detention in hospital for treatment remains necessary. He can be remitted to prison at any time if his responsible clinician advises that his detention in hospital is no longer necessary. Alternatively, he has the right to have his case reviewed once a year by the independent First-tier Tribunal (Mental Health). A finding by the tribunal that his detention in hospital for treatment was no longer necessary would establish his right to review by the Parole Board.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 614-5W, on Gary Critchley, whether Gary Critchley's detention under the Mental Health Act 1983 is related to his conviction for murder. [8365]

Mr Blunt: Mr Critchley is serving a mandatory life sentence following his conviction for murder in May 1981. His transfer to hospital was directed by the Secretary of State in March 2010 under section 47 of the Mental Health Act 1983, which applies to convicted serving prisoners. But the transfer was directed on the basis of medical evidence that he was mentally disordered to an extent which justified his detention in hospital for medical treatment and that appropriate medical treatment was available for him.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 614-5W, on Gary Critchley, under which section of the Mental Health Act 1983 Gary Critchley is being detained; when his detention under this section of the Act commenced; and what the dates are of any previous detention of Mr Critchley under the Mental Health Act 1983 since the date of his conviction for murder. [8431]

Mr Blunt: Mr Critchley is detained in hospital under sections 47 and 49 of the Mental Health Act 1983. His transfer to hospital was directed by the Secretary of State by a warrant dated 8 March 2010. Mr Critchley was admitted to hospital on 17 March 2010. There is no record in the Department of his having previously been detained under the Mental Health Act.

Crown Dependency

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will meet representatives of the Government of each Crown Dependency to discuss his Department's role in their administration before 1 September 2010. [7936]

Mr Djanogly: My noble Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Lord McNally) is the responsible Minister for the day to day relationship between the UK and the Crown Dependencies, is meeting the Chief Minister of Guernsey on 13 July and the Chief Minister of the Isle of Man on 19 July.

My noble Friend has also written to the Government of each Crown Dependency so that arrangements can be made for future meetings and visits. All meetings and visits will cover a broad range of business.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the Government's policy is on implementing decisions of the European Court of Human Rights applicable to the UK. [7799]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government are committed to the European Convention on Human Rights and its obligations under that convention. This includes the obligation to implement adverse judgments against the United Kingdom. The Government will set out more detail on this subject when they respond to the report "Enhancing Parliament's role in relation to human rights judgments", the Fifteenth Report of last Session of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

Extradition: Cyprus

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent representations he has received on the imprisonment of Michael Binnington at Edmunds Hill Prison; and if he will make a statement; [8768]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the imprisonment of Luke Atkinson at Wandsworth Prison; and if he will make a statement; [8769]

(3) if he will review the case of *(a)* Michael Binnington and *(b)* Luke Atkinson. [8770]

Mr Blunt: Representations about the imprisonment of Michael Binnington and Luke Atkinson have been received from the hon. Member for Witham and from others.

Michael Binnington and Luke Atkinson were transferred from a prison in Cyprus to one in the United Kingdom in order serve their prison sentence here. Transfer took place in accordance with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons and the Repatriation of Prisoners Act 1984. I am satisfied that their detention here is both lawful and appropriate. No further review of the case is planned.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of his programme of closure of magistrates courts on the average time taken for cases before magistrates courts to be completed. [8422]

Mr Djanogly: No estimate has been made of the effect on average case completion times of the court estate proposals. Following the public consultation, should a decision be taken to close a court, the work that would have been heard at that court will be transferred to a nearby court with sufficient capacity to hear that work. I do not, therefore, anticipate there being any significant impact on average case completion times. However, my Department will monitor this as part of any post-implementation assessment of the programme.

Courtroom utilisation, which is the time a courtroom is used against the hours that a courtroom is available for use, currently averages 64% across the magistrates courts. The Government's aim is to increase utilisation of courtroom time to at least 80%. It is estimated that the proposals we are consulting on would result in a national utilisation rate in the magistrates courts of around 80%.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the closure of magistrates courts under his recently announced programme on the number of people employed in magistrates courts. [8423]

Mr Djanogly: The proposals on the court estate are currently out to public consultation and until responses to the consultation have been considered in full, no decision on court closures will be taken. As it is not known whether and which courts will close, no assessment has been made of the effect on staffing numbers. Implementation planning will only occur once decisions have been taken and staff redeployment will form part of that planning. My Department will continue to discuss the proposals with staff and with the trade unions.

Offences Against Children

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements in identifying and assessing sex offenders who commit sexual crimes against children overseas. [8566]

Mr Blunt: Following identification, offenders who reside in England and Wales and who commit crimes against children overseas are brought into the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). These offenders may be identified by:

a notification from the country where they have been convicted of sexual offences against children; or

inquiries made by the United Kingdom Central Authority (UKCA); or

a self declaration by the offender on return to the UK.

Once an offender has been identified as having committed a relevant offence abroad, a certified copy of conviction will be obtained from the court of the country where the offence took place. Police will complete a Notification Order (NO) and place this before the magistrates court which will sanction the correct period for which the offender will be subject to the notification requirements, in accordance with section 97 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Under the notification requirements the offender must provide:

name, address, date of birth and national insurance number;

a set of fingerprints;

photographs of face and any other identifying features such as tattoos;

give details that will allow accurate risk assessment to be carried out (who they live with, or if they have access to children);

notification of foreign travel; and

any changes to the name or address within three days of the change.

Police may apply to the court for a NO in relation to offenders living in, or intending to come to, the United Kingdom.

The penalty for breach of a notification requirement is up to five years' imprisonment.

Becoming subject to the notification requirements brings the offender into MAPPA. Within MAPPA, information about the offender will be shared between relevant agencies in order to assess and then manage the risk presented by the offender. It is in the interests of public protection that the relevant agencies are required to work together within a statutory framework to assess and manage the risks presented by offenders who have committed sexual offences against children, either overseas or in the United Kingdom.

Where it is considered necessary to protect children from the risk of future sexual harm, the police may apply to the court for a Foreign Travel Order (FTO) Where granted by the court, this order prevents offenders with convictions for sexual offences against children from travelling abroad. The penalty for breach of a FTO is up to five years' imprisonment.

Prison Sentences: Drugs

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons were sentenced for offences related to dealing in *(a)* ketamine and *(b)* other class C drugs in each of the last three years; what proportion of such persons given a custodial sentence served (i) the whole sentence, (ii) more than half the sentence and (iii) less than half the sentence; and what assessment he has made of the effect of sentencing policy on trends in dealing in such substances. [8140]

Mr Blunt: The available information has been provided in the following tables.

The most recent three years for which data are available is 2006-08. Data for 2009 will become available when "Sentencing Statistics 2009" is published later in the year.

Sentencing is a matter for the courts, taking account of the circumstances of each case. The maximum penalty for dealing in class C drugs is 14 years' imprisonment and the sentences imposed show that the courts have sufficient powers to deal with this offence. All sentences are served in full.

Offenders sentenced for dealing[1] in ketamine and other class C drugs[2], 2006-08

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Ketamine			
Discharge	0	0	0
Fine	1	3	1
Community sentence	1	4	11
Suspended sentence	1	0	1
Immediate custody	1	0	3
Otherwise dealt with	0	0	1
Total sentenced	4	7	17
Other class C			
Discharge	83	61	50
Fine	75	92	85
Community sentence	712	685	838
Suspended sentence	486	674	816
Immediate custody	678	686	756
Otherwise dealt with	21	50	25
Total sentenced	2,055	2,248	2,570

Lengths of custodial sentences handed down for dealing[1] in ketamine and other class C drugs[2], 2006-08

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Ketamine			
Up to three months	0	0	0
Over 3 up to 6	1	0	0
Over 6 up to 12	0	0	0
12 months	0	0	0
Over 12 up to 18	0	0	1
Over 18 up to 3 years	0	0	1
Over 3 less than 4	0	0	0
4 years	0	0	1
Over 4 including 5	0	0	0
Over 5 up to 10 years	0	0	0
Over 10 less than life	0	0	0
Other class C			
Up to three months	49	52	53
Over 3 up to 6 months	147	132	142
Over 6 up to 12 months	128	140	151
12 months	94	98	101
Over 12 up to 13 months	108	116	147
Over 18 months up to 3 years	110	118	111
Over 3 less than 4 years	13	5	14
4 years	8	9	4
Over 4 including 5 years	6	4	14
Over 5 up to 10 years	15	12	16

Lengths of custodial sentences handed down for dealing[1] in ketamine and other class C drugs[2], 2006-08

	2006	2007	2008
Over 10 years less than indeterminate	0	0	3

[1] Includes supply or offering to supply and possession with intent to supply.
[2] Includes GHB, anabolic steroids and cannabis (where classified by the sentencing court as a class C offence).

Notes:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed.

Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics—Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Sark: Politics and Government

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to have Sark recognised as an independent state by the United Nations; and if he will make a statement. [7911]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is not taking any steps to have Sark recognised as an independent state by the United Nations.

Unpaid Fines: Staffordshire

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court fines of what total monetary value were outstanding in Staffordshire on 31 March 2010. [7753]

Mr Djanogly: The total number of fine accounts outstanding in Staffordshire as at 31 March 2010 was 23,525. These accounts had a total value outstanding of £11,214,527. Within the 2009-10 financial year £6,663,844 was collected in financial penalties in the Staffordshire area.

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines of what total monetary value were written off by HM Courts Service in Staffordshire in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [7754]

Mr Djanogly: The value of financial penalties written off by HMCS in the previous three years is set out in the following table:

£

	Total imposed	Administratively cancelled	Legally cancelled	Total cancelled
2007-08	8,766,857	747,836	789,325	1,537,161
2008-09	8,698,559	1,039,354	1,193,997	2,233,351
2009-10	8,136,476	683,639	1,126,981	1,810,620

HMCS systems do not identify the number of accounts that have been written off only the value. The number of accounts could be provided only at disproportionate cost as this would require a manual search of all fine accounts for the past three years to identify how many had been written off.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Employment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate is of the change in the number of people employed in the arts sector since the beginning of the recession. [8780]

Mr Vaizey: No recent estimates have been made as to the number of people employed in the arts sector.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the average cost per household, including vehicle ownership, of upgrading radio equipment in preparation for the proposed changeover from analogue to digital radio in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* London and *(c)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency. [8160]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 14 July 2010]:* The Government have not previously made an estimate of the average costs per household of a digital radio switchover.

On 8 July I announced the Digital Radio Action Plan, which outlines the information the Government will need in order to make a well-informed decision on whether to proceed with a radio switchover. A key aspect of the plan will include a detailed impact assessment of the proposed costs, including household and vehicle conversion, and benefits of a digital radio switchover programme.

Mass Media: Reviews

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the terms of reference are of the Shott review of local media ownership rules; and how much will be spent on the review. [8009]

Mr Vaizey: Nicholas Shott has been asked to set out how the Government can maximise the potential for local television to emerge in the UK and have a clear view of the value for delivering local TV from the point of potential investors.

This may include:

the conditions necessary to make local television commercially viable;

the scope of revenue opportunities from advertising or other sources;

which barriers should be reformed/removed to nurture a new generation of profitable local media companies; and

how existing industry players might help achieve this.

Mr Shott is undertaking this work pro bono.

I am arranging for a copy of the letter setting out the above terms to be placed in the Library of the House.

Music: Finance

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 16-17W, on music, what the 14 community music rehearsal spaces are; how much funding his Department plans to allocate to them; and over what period that funding will be allocated. [7951]

Mr Vaizey: The spaces included in this scheme will be in Liverpool, Bristol (two spaces), Cornwall, Manchester, North and West Norfolk, Washington, Hastings, Coventry, Nottingham, Birmingham (two spaces), and Rotherham.

Grants totalling £440,064 were made to the relevant local authorities to assist with their establishment over the two financial years ending March 2010.

Only three of the spaces (Liverpool, Bristol and Cornwall) are currently open, with the rest due to come on stream before the end of this year.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at which airports in the UK body scanners are used; what plans he has for their use in the future at those and other airports; and if he will make a statement. [7019]

Mrs Villiers: Security scanners are currently installed at Heathrow, Manchester and Gatwick airports.

A public consultation on a code of practice for the use of security scanners at UK airports was launched on 29 March, and the closing date has been extended to 19 July to give plenty of time for all interested parties to respond. We will consider all the responses to the consultation carefully before making decisions about how security scanners should be deployed in future.

Bus Services: Concessions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has carried out an analysis of reductions in expenditure from reduced usage of national concessionary bus passes. [6895]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport routinely carries out a range of analysis on various scenarios relating to transport expenditure, including that on concessionary fares. The Department is not projecting a reduction in the number of trips that individual concessionaries make with their national bus passes.

Coventry-Nuneaton Railway Line

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take in support of the NUCKLE project in the West Midlands. [2775]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 17 June 2010]*: The Government's key priority at present is to tackle the budget deficit. In his written ministerial statement to the House on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, "Transport: Local Authority Major Schemes", the Secretary of State for Transport made clear that the Department for Transport will not be in a position to identify which major investments might be supported, including the Coventry-Nuneaton project, until the Government's spending review is concluded in the autumn.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7355]

Norman Baker: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the expenditure by his Department and its predecessors on *(a)* organising and *(b)* attending conferences in each year since 1997. [6136]

Norman Baker: The information requested is not available centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7505]

Norman Baker: The breakdown requested is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7568]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002 and comprises seven agencies as well as sponsoring 10 Executive and advisory non-departmental public bodies. It would not be possible to obtain the information required without incurring a disproportionate cost

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7317]

Norman Baker: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost due to this information not being held centrally.

Departmental Visual Arts

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on works of art since 2005. [6067]

Norman Baker: Between 2005 and 12 May 2010 the Department for Transport spent £2,472.22 on works of art. This included the purchase of prints, posters and associated equipment such as frames.

Department for Transport spend on works of art since 2005

			£
Artwork/posters	*Location*	*Cost*	*Total cost*
2005-06			
7 prints[1] and frames	Rail Accident Investigation Branch	300.00	300.00
2008-09			
3 framed posters	DfT—Ministerial Suite	93.69 each	774.75
1 framed poster	DfT—Ministerial Suite	131.75	131.75
3 frames	DfT—Ministerial Suite	85 each	255.10
2009-10			
1 transport poster[1]	Not framed yet	2.89	2.89
1 transport poster[1]	Not framed yet	7.78	7.78
1 transport poster[1]	Not framed yet	9.74	9.74
1 transport poster[1]	Not framed yet	26.48	26.48
The following three posters:[1] Imperial Airways—Flying Boat—poster Early Electric Car Advertisement for Babcock Electric Victoria Phaeton, c.1907 Cunard Line, RMS, Aquitania	—	—	165.95
Framework cost for these prints	DfT—Ministerial Suite	—	373.80
Frames for posters	DfT—Ministerial Suite	—	39.98
Posters and frames for PC office	DfT—Ministerial Suite	—	384.00
			2,472.22

[1] These are unlimited prints.

No works of art have been purchased since 12 May 2010. The Department now has a policy of obtaining works of art only from the Government Art Collection at no cost to the public purse.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many leased cars the Government Car and Despatch Agency has returned since 6 May 2010. [8269]

Mike Penning: The Government Car and Despatch Agency has returned two leased cars since 6 May 2010.

Hucknall Inner Relief Road

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future funding of the Hucknall Inner Relief Road. [7089]

Norman Baker: In his written ministerial statement on 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 35WS, regarding local authority major schemes, the Secretary of State for Transport made it clear that the Department will not be able to identify those major investments that can be supported until the conclusion of the Government's spending review in the autumn.

Therefore at this time I cannot provide any assurances on funding for the Hucknall Inner Relief Road scheme.

Railways: Fares

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will bring forward proposals to reduce passenger fares through changes to franchise agreements with train operating companies; [4425]

(2) if he will instruct the Office for Rail Regulation to undertake a review of the affordability of *(a)* walk-on fares and *(b)* advanced purchase national rail fares. [4426]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have pledged to put fairness at the heart of their approach to rail fares. The level of rail fares will be considered as part of the overall spending review that the Government are conducting. The Rail Value for Money Study, jointly sponsored by the Office of Rail Regulation (being carried out by Sir Roy McNulty), and the Association of Train Operating Companies' review of fares are expected to provide valuable input going forward in the medium term.

Speed Limits: Urban Areas

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will publish each representation he has received on his policy on the speed limit in urban areas. [5867]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has received no representations relating to the urban speed limit. All speed limits are kept under constant review to ensure they remain appropriate. There are no current plans to change the default urban 30 mph speed limit. To do so would have significant resource implications and place additional burdens on local authorities. Local authorities already have the power to implement 20 mph limits and zones where they decide it is appropriate.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7364]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999, and there were no refurbishments prior to 2007-08.

In 2007-08 the Office spent £63,500 on a refurbishment project to replace carpets, furniture and curtains, including bomb blast curtains.

In 2008-09 there was no expenditure on refurbishment.

In 2009-10 £8,186 was spent on new furniture for office desks and to provide a dedicated video conference facility which links the London and Cardiff offices.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7578]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office was established in July 1999. Records show that the Wales Office has spent the following amounts on external legal advice, all of which has come from the Treasury Solicitor.

	£
2001-02	5,509.50
2002-03	4,765.00
2003-04	909.00
2004-05	7,103.19
2005-06	2,140.40
2006-07	9,275.00
2007-08	4,850.25
2008-09	3,067.90
2009-10	43,677.58

Records for the period before 2001-02 are not held in the Wales Office.

Departmental Official Cars

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what her estimate is of the mileage travelled by each Minister in her Department in a Government car in *(a)* May and *(b)* June 2010. [8315]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 624W.

Fabian Plant: Closures

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if she will hold discussions with the Linamar Corporation over the proposed closure of its plant at Fabian Way near Swansea; and if she will make a statement. [7795]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State has already spoken with management at Linamar and with the hon. Member himself to express concern at the proposed closure of the factory and to ensure that continued updates are given to my office.

Jobcentre Plus will also offer a Rapid Response Service to the workers at Linamar to ensure they receive all the help and support that they need. I understand as well that Careers Wales have already visited the plant to make workers there aware of ReAct funding.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been returned to the Exchequer in payments via the housing revenue account subsidy scheme by local authorities in Wales in each financial year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [2530]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

Figures since 1997 are not separately identified in the Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses. The Welsh housing revenue account surplus in 2008-09 was £91 million.

HOME DEPARTMENT

British Crime Survey

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions she has had with the UK Statistics Authority on the accuracy of results from the British Crime Survey; and what the outcomes of those discussions were; [7084]

(2) when she expects her Department to publish the outcomes of its review of the British Crime Survey. [7086]

Mrs May *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* I met with Sir Michael Scholar, chair of the UK Statistics Authority, on Wednesday 7 July to discuss the recommendations contained within the authority's recent report, 'Overcoming Barriers to Trust in Crime Statistics'.

We had a wide-ranging discussion about crime statistics and I am considering the recommendations in the UK Statistics Authority report including those relevant to the British Crime Survey. The Home Office will respond to the recommendations in due course.

Community Policing

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the future of neighbourhood policing. [7087]

Mrs May *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The Government support neighbourhood policing and are committed to ensuring that all communities receive a high quality policing service that meets local priorities.

The programme set out by the coalition explains our approach to policing, replacing bureaucratic accountability with democratic authority and ensuring police forces are better able to deal with the crime and antisocial behaviour that blights people's lives. This includes:

directly elected individuals to make the police more accountable

reducing bureaucracy that hinders the police, and introducing better technology

publishing crime maps showing the public what is happening on their streets, and

regular beat meetings allowing residents to hold the police to account.

We will consider how neighbourhood policing—working with local government and other local partners—can take forward these aims.

Crime: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to combat anti-Semitism since January 2010; and if she will make a statement. [8575]

James Brokenshire: The Government take attacks on the Jewish community very seriously. As part of the 2010 Victims Fund the Community Security Trust secured funding to improve the reporting of anti-Semitic attacks in London and Manchester. This will build on the successful project it ran in North London which was welcomed by the Jewish Community. The Association of Chief Police Officers National Community Tension Team coordinates a national operation to ensure security and reassure Jewish communities during high holy days.

Criminal Records: Vetting

Mr Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prevented from taking up posts involving contact with vulnerable persons as a result of information disclosed in a Criminal Records Bureau check in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those were *(a)* volunteers and *(b)* applying for a paid position. [6545]

Lynne Featherstone: Independent research carried out between 2004 and 2009 demonstrates that the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) is continuing to make a difference to the protection of children and the vulnerable.

Ultimately it is for the employer to decide, after full pre-employment checks in addition to a CRB check and making a balanced judgment on the basis of all the information available to them, as to whether an individual job applicant is suitable for a particular position. The CRB is not advised of the outcome of the recruiting decision and neither the CRB nor the Home Office has any influence over this decision.

From the results of the independent research it is estimated that around 130,000 unsuitable people have been prevented from gaining access to children or the vulnerable, as a direct result of CRB checks in the past six years:

20,000 in 2004 (out of 2.6 million checks)
25,000 in 2005 (out of 2.7 million checks)
15,000 in 2006 (out of 3.2 million checks)
20,000 in 2007 (out of 3.3 million checks)
18,000 in 2008 (out of 3.7 million checks)
33,000 in 2009 (out of 4.2 million checks).

These figures are not broken down by applications for positions working solely with children or vulnerable adults or by paid or voluntary positions.

The Home Office is committed to reviewing the criminal records regime. The terms of reference for the review are currently under consideration and further announcements will be made in due course.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether equality impact assessments will be used in determining the areas of her Department's budget in respect of which spending will be reduced. [7902]

Mrs May *[holding answer 13 July 2010]*: My Department will ensure the relevant equality considerations are taken into account when assessing policy options in the context of its departmental savings, in compliance with our obligations under the gender, race and disability duties set out in the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976, and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many illegal migrants identified in the last 12 months, who initially entered the UK through the student visa system, had attained qualifications to the equivalent of National Qualifications Framework level 3 and above; [5124]

(2) how many illegal migrants identified in the last 12 months had initially entered the UK through the student visa system and had as their country of origin *(a)* Japan, *(b)* South Korea, *(c)* Taiwan, *(d)* Saudi Arabia, *(e)* Brazil, *(f)* Mexico, *(g)* Turkey and *(h)* Colombia; [5125]

(3) what proportion of illegal migrants entered the UK *(a)* without any initial visa, *(b)* through the visitor visa system and *(c)* through the student visa system in each year since 2005; and what the country of origin of each was. [5126]

Damian Green: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would require a manual check of individual case records.

Football Banning Orders

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many football banning orders have been issued under the Football (Disorder) Act 2000 in each year since 2005. [8565]

James Brokenshire: The data requested are gathered and reported in accordance with the period of a football season rather than calendar year. The following table provides the number of football banning orders imposed during each football season since 2005-06. Football banning order and football-related arrest statistics for 2009-10 season will be published later this year.

Football banning orders issued

Football season	*Number*
2005-06	995
2006-07	644
2007-08	1,048
2008-09	956

Forensic Science: DNA

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 61WS, on the Forensic Science Service, when the Forensic Science Service plans to report to her Department on the use of low copy number DNA. [8144]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Service has conducted its own independently led investigation into the circumstances of its use, between December 1999 and September 2005 of low copy number DNA. The report, by Mark Addison, was completed in May 2007. In April 2008, the Home Office sponsored its own review, led by Professor Brian Caddy, into the Science of Low Template DNA Analysis. Lastly the written ministerial statement of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 61WS, announced a review by the Association of Chief Police Officers into the cases in which the low copy DNA technique, used by the Forensic Science Service, had been employed.

My predecessor asked the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Forensic Science Service to work together to produce a composite report. Discussions on some details are in their concluding stages, after which the report will be formally presented to the Department, and will be laid in the Libraries of the Houses.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Forensic Science Service on their past use of low copy number DNA; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

James Brokenshire: Since taking office, I have had no discussions with the Forensic Science Service on their past use of low copy number DNA.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* representations she has received and *(b)* research she has commissioned on the use of low copy number DNA by the Forensic Science Service; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

James Brokenshire: Since taking office, I have received no representations on the use of low copy number DNA by the Forensic Science Service, nor have I commissioned any research.

Forgery: Coinage

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted for offences related to counterfeiting coins in each year since 1997. [8796]

James Brokenshire: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons found guilty for "Making counterfeit coin or note" under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981, section 14, England and Wales 1997 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of persons convicted at all courts for offences relating to counterfeiting coins in England and Wales, 1997 to 2008[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Found guilty
1997	14
1998	17
1999	18
2000	19
2001	15
2002	11
2003	6
2004	11
2005	14
2006	13
2007	10
2008	13

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[4] Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 S.14 Offence description: "Making counterfeit coin or note".

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Fraud: Credit Cards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce credit card fraud. [illegible]

James Brokenshire: Figures published by the UK Cards Association in March this year show that credit card fraud fell by 28% to £404.3 million in 2009 from £609.9 million in 2008. The Home Office will continue to work with our partners in the industry and law enforcement who work in the field of technical improvements and intelligence gathering that are crucial to helping prevent credit card fraud.

Immigration

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects to reach a decision on the application for indefinite leave to remain submitted by Mrs Majeedan Begum from Edinburgh North and Leith constituency. [8550]

Damian Green: I cannot comment on individual cases and the UK Border Agency have written to the hon. Member on this matter on 25 June 2010.

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which health organisations her Department plans to consult on the proposals on the cost of alcohol to be included in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. [8876]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office plans to consult with the following health organisations on the proposals on the cost of alcohol planned to be included in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill: the National Institute of Clinical Excellence, the British Medical Association, Alcohol Concern, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Alcohol Health Alliance, the British Liver Trust, and local/regional representatives of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the scope of the consultation on the proposals on the cost of alcohol to be included in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. [8878]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department and Secretary of State for Health have ongoing discussions on policy development and specifically the alcohol proposals to be included in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. Officials from both Departments continue to work together to develop and take forward these new measures.

Prosecutions: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each age group under the Malicious Communications Act 1988 there have been in each police force area in each of the last five years; how many of those prosecutions related to anti-Semitic material; and if she will make a statement. [8574]

James Brokenshire: The number of defendants proceeded against for offences under the Malicious Communications Act 1988, by gender, age group and police force area, England and Wales 2004 to 2008 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table. The Ministry of Justice does not centrally hold information that identifies the circumstances of an offence unless the offence is separately specified in law; therefore it is not possible to identify those cases involving the dissemination of anti-Semitic material. Court proceedings data for 2009 are planned for publication on 21 October 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against under the Malicious Communications Act, by gender, age group, and police force area, England and Wales 2004 to 2008[1,2,3]

		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
Police force area	*Age group*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Avon and Somerset	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	—	1
	18 and over	—	1	5	—	6	2	8	4	16	2
	Total	—	1	5	1	8	4	9	5	16	3
Bedfordshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
	Total	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Cambridgeshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—
	Total	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—
Cheshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	1	—	3	2	4	—	5	1
	Total	—	—	1	—	3	2	4	—	5	1
City of London	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
	Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Cleveland	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
	Total	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Cumbria	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
	18 and over	2	—	1	2	4	—	2	1	3	1
	Total	2	—	1	2	4	—	3	1	4	2
Derbyshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	1	—	2	—	6	1	5	1
	Total	—	—	1	—	2	1	6	1	5	1
Devon and Cornwall	10 to 17	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	1	—	—
	18 and over	3	3	1	3	5	—	9	1	5	1
	Total	3	3	2	4	7	—	11	2	5	1
Dorset	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	2
	Total	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	3	2
Durham	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	4	—
	Total	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	4	—
Essex	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
	18 and over	1	—	4	—	7	—	2	2	6	—
	Total	1	—	4	—	8	—	2	2	8	—

Number of defendants proceeded against under the Malicious Communications Act, by gender, age group, and police force area, England and Wales 2004 to 2008

		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
Police force area	*Age group*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Gloucestershire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
	Total	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Greater Manchester	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
	18 and over	3	—	3	1	7	2	7	2	5	2
	Total	3	—	4	1	8	2	8	2	5	2
Hampshire	10 to 17	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1
	18 and over	3	—	1	1	2	—	7	—	9	1
	Total	3	1	1	1	3	—	8	—	10	2
Hertfordshire	10 to 17	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	—	1	1
	18 and over	1	—	3	—	10	1	9	3	16	4
	Total	1	—	4	1	10	1	13	3	17	5
Humberside	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	5	—	3	—	4	—	3	1
	Total	—	—	6	—	4	—	4	—	3	1
Kent	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	3	1
	Total	1	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	3	1
Lancashire	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	18 and over	2	—	—	—	2	—	6	1	9	—
	Total	2	—	1	—	2	—	6	1	10	1
Leicestershire	10 to 17	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	2	1	7	1	13	—	1	—	10	1
	Total	3	1	7	1	13	—	1	—	10	1
Lincolnshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	1	—	1	—	5	3	4	1	4	—
	Total	1	—	1	—	5	4	4	1	4	—
Merseyside	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	—
	Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	—
Metropolitan Police	10 to 17	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	4	1
	18 and over	20	2	16	3	15	—	26	1	41	4
	Total	22	2	17	4	15	—	27	1	45	5
Norfolk	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	1
	Total	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	1
North Yorkshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	1	4	—
	Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	1	4	—
Northamptonshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

Number of defendants proceeded against under the Malicious Communications Act, by gender, age group, and police force area, England and Wales 2004 to 2008[1, 2]

Police force area	*Age group*	2004 *Male*	2004 *Female*	2005 *Male*	2005 *Female*	2006 *Male*	2006 *Female*	2007 *Male*	2007 *Female*	2008 *Male*	2008 *Female*
	Total	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Northumbria	10 to 17	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	1
	18 and over	2	—	3	—	5	2	10	5	12	2
	Total	2	—	3	1	5	2	12	5	14	3
Nottinghamshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	3	—	4	—	1	—	4	1	2	—
	Total	3	—	4	—	4	—	4	1	2	—
South Yorkshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	—	1	—
	Total	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	—	1	—
Staffordshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	3	1	4	—	3	—	3	—	8	—
	Total	3	1	4	—	3	—	3	—	8	—
Suffolk	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	3	—
	18 and over	3	1	—	1	5	—	3	—	10	3
	Total	3	1	1	1	5	—	5	1	13	3
Surrey	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	2	—	—	—	5	—	3	—	4	1
	Total	2	—	—	—	5	—	3	—	4	1
Sussex	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	6	1
	Total	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	6	1
Thames Valley	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	9	2	5	1	5	1	6	2	7	—
	Total	9	2	5	1	5	1	6	2	7	—
Warwickshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
	18 and over	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	1
	Total	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	3	1
West Mercia	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	18 and over	3	1	4	1	—	—	9	—	11	2
	Total	3	1	4	1	—	—	9	—	12	2
West Midlands	10 to 17	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
	18 and over	5	—	5	2	10	2	7	1	13	2
	Total	5	—	6	2	10	2	8	1	15	2
West Yorkshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	1	—	—	1	6	—	11	2	7	—
	Total	1	—	—	1	6	—	11	2	7	—
Wiltshire	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
	18 and over	—	1	1	—	—	1	5	—	2	—
	Total	—	1	1	—	—	1	6	—	3	—
Dyfed-Powys	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—

Number of defendants proceeded against under the Malicious Communications Act, by gender, age group, and police force area. England and Wales 2004 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
Police force area	*Age group*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
	18 and over	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	3	—
	Total	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	—	4	—
Gwent	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
	18 and over	—	—	3	1	3	—	5	—	3	—
	Total	—	—	3	1	3	—	6	—	5	—
North Wales	10 to 17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	1	—	1	—	3	2	2	—	5	—
	Total	1	—	1	—	3	2	2	—	5	—
South Wales	10 to 17	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18 and over	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	1
	Total	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	3	1
England and Wales	10 to 17	4	1	9	5	11	5	21	3	23	7
	18 and over	78	16	87	20	144	22	194	33	259	39
	Total	82	17	96	25	155	27	215	36	282	46

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities: Armed Forces

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Prime Minister if he will appoint a Minister within the Cabinet Office with overall responsibility for the welfare of current and former military personnel. [7802]

The Prime Minister: The Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, my hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr. Robathan) is responsible for these issues. The Government consider the welfare of current and former military personnel as extremely important. The Coalition's programme for government sets out a number of concrete measures aimed at rebuilding the Military Covenant. All Government Ministers must ensure that their Departments do everything they can to support current and former military personnel and their families.

Official Gifts

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister which gifts over a monetary value of £140 Ministers in the *(a)* present and *(b)* previous administration (i) gave and (ii) received in the last 12 months; and which such gifts have been retained by former Ministers on leaving office. [8430]

The Prime Minister: The Government have published an annual list of gifts received by Ministers in an official capacity valued at more than £140 since 2001. The list was expanded in 2007 to cover gifts given by Ministers. A list of gifts valued at more than £140 received and given by Ministers in the previous Administration will be published in due course. As set out in the Ministerial Code, gifts valued at more than £140 received and given by Ministers in the present Administration will be published by Departments on at least a quarterly basis.

Public Sector

Luciana Berger: To ask the Prime Minister to how many public sector workers he and the Deputy Prime Minister sent their recent e-mail. [8099]

The Prime Minister: The e-mail from the Deputy Prime Minister and me about the 'spending challenge' was distributed across the public sector. In a two-week period, public sector workers submitted over 63,000 ideas to the website set up for them to send suggestions to.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Office for Renewable Energy Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the merits of establishing the Office for Renewable Energy Development as a non-departmental public body. [8428]

Gregory Barker: Establishing the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) as a non-departmental public body was considered as one of a range of options. It was decided that a co-ordinated approach to policy and deployment to develop low-carbon energy supplies could best be achieved by keeping ORED as a directorate within the Department of Energy and Climate Change alongside the Offices for Nuclear Development, (launched 2008) and the Office of Carbon Capture and Storage, (launched 2010).

Oil Rigs

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many drilling inspections are planned to be carried out each year in the future on North Sea oil rigs. [8598]

Charles Hendry: All drilling rigs operating in UK waters are subject to safety inspections by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and environmental inspection by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Offshore Environmental Inspectorate.

The number of drilling rig operations being conducted on an annual basis is dependent on the level and scope of exploration and production activity by operators, currently there are 22 mobile drilling rigs operating in UK waters. The number of offshore inspections by regulatory authorities may, therefore, change on an annual basis in line with activity and the regulators inspection and investigation strategies.

HSE have confirmed that their health and safety intervention plans propose at least one annual visit to every mobile drilling rig working in UK waters. DECC's Offshore Inspectorate undertake a series of prioritised environmental inspections to fixed installations and drilling rigs, subject to a risk based approach which takes into account operations being conducted. Over the past three years an annual average of nine drilling rig inspections have been undertaken and, subject to the above factors, it is DECC's intention to double this to a minimum of 18 drilling inspections annually, depending on the level of drilling activity taking place.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to make an announcement on a feed-in tariff rate for biomethane injection into the grid. [8013]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to increasing the amount of renewable heat in the UK; this is a crucial part of ensuring we meet our renewables targets, cutting carbon and ensuring energy security. We are committed to introducing measures to promote a huge increase in energy from waste through anaerobic digestion. Central to this will be work to facilitate an increase in the number of anaerobic digestion facilities producing biomethane from waste, which can be injected into the grid.

We are currently looking at the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) proposals. Clearly there are benefits to the scheme, but we must also consider the impact of the costs, particularly given the financial constraints we must work within and the potential impact that funding options could have on vulnerable people.

We do want to provide certainty and clarity as quickly as possible but want to be sure that we are making the right decisions. We will look to make an announcement on the future of the proposed scheme as soon as possible.

Wind Power

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of onshore wind turbine applications his Department has rejected in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [8349]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* The information is as follows:

In 2005, the SoS consented two onshore wind farm applications and refused none, representing a 0% refusal rate.

Scout Moor (65 MW) Consented

Little Cheyne Court (78 MW) Consented

In 2006, the SoS made one decision on an onshore wind farm application. This was a refusal, representing a 100% refusal rate.

Whinash (67.5 MW) Refused consent

In 2007, the SoS consented one onshore wind farm and refused none, representing a 0% refusal rate.

Fullabrook Down (66 MW) Consented

During 2008, the SoS consented three onshore wind farms and refused none, representing a 0% refusal rate.

Keadby (85 MW) Consented

Tween Bridge (66 MW) Consented

Middlemoor (75 MW) Consented

In 2009, the SoS consented one onshore wind farm (jointly with the SoS for Communities and Local Government) and refused none, representing a 0% refusal rate.

Lynemouth (16.1 MW) Consented

To date in 2010, the SoS has made one decision on an onshore wind farm application. This was a refusal, representing a 100% refusal rate.

Steadings (66 MW) Consent refused

WORK AND PENSIONS

Allergies: Lost Working Days

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of working days lost due to allergies in the UK. [8765]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

A copy of their response will be placed in the Library of the House.

Disability Living Allowance

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* the UK made an appeal against a decision regarding a claim for disability living allowance in each of the last five years; and how many such appeals were upheld in each such year. [6088]

Maria Miller: The information is not available on a constituency basis. The number of DLA appeals for the UK as a whole and the number of appeals upheld is in the following table:

DLA appeals	*Total DLA appeals decisions heard by the Appeal Service*	*DLA appeals found in the customer's favour*
2005-06	69,000	34,000
2006-07	63,000	30,000
2007-08	57,000	26,000
2008-09	53,000	23,000
2009-10	51,000	21,000

Notes:
1. Each year covers decisions recorded on the DLA computer system within the period of 1 April to 31 March.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. The figures do not include DLA Appeals made by customers in Northern Ireland and handled by the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions—RDA60209, 60205 and 80123 reports—DLA Management Information Statistics.

Appeals found in the customer's favour are appeal decisions that have either varied the existing award, increased the existing award or allowed an award of DLA following a previously disallowed decision.

Housing Benefit

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in *(a)* Bishop Auckland and *(b)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency are receiving (i) over £400 per week for a four or five-bedroom property, (ii) over £340 per week for a three-bedroom property, (iii) over £290 for a two-bedroom property and (iv) over £200 for a one-bedroom property in 2010-11. [5183]

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in West Lancashire constituency are receiving *(a)* over £400 per week for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* over £340 per week for a three bedroom property, *(c)* over £290 per week for a two bedroom property and *(d)* over £200 per week for a one bedroom property. [5634]

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in Stretford and Urmston constituency are receiving *(a)* over £400 per week for a four or five-bedroom property, *(b)* over £340 per week for a three-bedroom property and *(c)* over £290 per week for a one-bedroom property. [5856]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in Makerfield constituency are receiving *(a)* over £400 per week for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* over £340 per week for a three bedroom property, *(c)* over £290 per week for a two bedroom property and *(d)* over £200 per week for a one bedroom property. [6046]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency are receiving *(a)* over £400 per week for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* over £340 per week for a three bedroom property, *(c)* over £290 per week for a two bedroom property and *(d)* over £200 per week for a one bedroom property. [6060]

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in Worsley and Eccles South constituency are receiving *(a)* over £400 per week for a four or five bedroom property, *(b)* over £340 per week for a three bedroom property, *(c)* over £290 per week for a two bedroom property and *(d)* over £200 per week for a one bedroom property. [6096]

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in *(a)* Glasgow North and *(b)* Ealing Central and Acton constituency are receiving (i) over £400 per week for a four or five bedroom property, (ii) over £340 per week for a three bedroom property, (iii) over £290 per week for a two bedroom property and (iv) over £200 per week for a one bedroom property. [6144]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many local housing allowance recipients in *(a)* Slough, *(b)* Salisbury and *(c)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency are receiving (i) over £400 per week for a four or five bedroom property, (ii) over £340 per week for a three bedroom property, (iii) over £290 per week for a two bedroom property and (iv) over £200 per week for a one bedroom property. [6192]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Housing Benefit: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many London residents claimed *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* housing benefit in excess of £100,000 in each of the last five years. [6101]

Steve Webb: Information available on receipt of housing benefit in London over the last five years comes from two different data sources and is shown in the following two tables.

Housing benefit caseload in the London GOR, at each date shown

	Number
November 2008	712,010
August 2009	758,260
March 2010	792,890

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008, and March 2010 are the most recent available.
5. Data from SHBE incorporate the local authority changes from 1 April 2009.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Housing benefit caseload in the London GOR, at each date shown

As at August each year	*Number*
2005	686,160
2006	689,680
2007	698,340

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 5% sample taken in August 2005-August 2007.

The information is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

We do not have information on annual payments to individual housing benefit recipients. We do hold information on customers' weekly housing benefit awards and weekly local housing allowance rates which can be used to make inferences about potential annual awards.

The latest information the Department holds is for March 2010, when the maximum local housing allowance rate was £1,800, and shows that there were customers who received this rate. All these customers would be located in the Central London Broad Rental Market Area.

In June 2010 the maximum local housing allowance rate rose to £2,000 a week which would be equivalent to "receiving housing benefit in excess of £100,000 a year, assuming the individual remains in receipt of the same level of benefit for 52 continuous weeks. Information on housing benefit awards in June will be available in September 2010.

Housing Benefit: Hampstead

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many of those resident in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency in receipt of housing benefit are in *(a)* local authority, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private sector housing; [6486]

(2) how many of those resident in Hampstead and Kilburn constituency and in receipt of housing benefit are *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* of working age and (i) in employment and (ii) not in employment. [6487]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

The available information on housing benefit recipients is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jun10.xls

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Housing Benefit: Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals resident in West Worcestershire are in receipt of housing benefit *(a)* in total, *(b)* of over £280 per week for a one bedroom property and *(c)* of over £400 per week for a four bedroom property or larger. [4450]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level.

The available information on housing benefit recipients is published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_jun10.xls

An exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the housing benefit data: this will include parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped this exercise will be completed by early 2011.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in Mid Sussex constituency. [8813]

Chris Grayling: In May 2010 there were 35 lone parents claiming jobseeker's allowance in Mid Sussex.

The figure has been rounded to the nearest five.

Pensioners: West Sussex

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Mid Sussex constituency receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit. [8812]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Parliamentary constituency: Mid Sussex	*Number*
State pension recipients	20,690
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	3,110
Pension credit household recipients	2,700

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data as at November 2009

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* employment and support allowance in Mid Sussex constituency. [8814]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided as follows:

Employment support allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, and disability living allowance claimants in Mid Sussex constituency: November 2009

Parliamentary constituency: Mid Sussex	*Number*
ESA	390
IB/SDA	1,870
DLA	2,800

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Case load for DLA show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
5. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, ie 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Social Security Benefits: Motherwell

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the working age population of Motherwell and Wishaw constituency are in receipt of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* unemployment allowance, *(c)* carer's allowance, *(d)* disability living allowance, *(e)* widow's and/or bereavement benefit and *(f)* other income support. [6532]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in statistical groups

Claimants of working age in the parliamentary constituency of Motherwell and Wishaw, as a percentage of the working age population, November 2009

	Motherwell and Wishaw	*Percentage of working age population*
Total	13,190	24.3
Job seeker	3,230	6
Employment and support allowance and incapacity benefit	6,480	11.9
Lone parent	1,360	2.5
Carer	870	1.6
Others on income related benefit	390	0.7
Disabled	710	1.3
Bereaved	160	0.3

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Statistical groups are defined as follows:

(a) Jobseeker—jobseeker's allowance.

(b) Employment and support allowance and incapacity benefit—employment and support allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

(c) Lone parent—income support with a child under 16 and no partner. Lone parent obligations were introduced from 24 November 2008 affecting the age of the youngest child. Further details available at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/wa/tabtool_wa.html

(d) Carer—carer's allowance.

(e) Others on income related benefits—others on income support (paid on the grounds of incapacity and including the disability premium) or pension credit.

(f) Disabled—disability living allowance, attendance allowance or industrial injuries benefit.

(g) Bereaved—widow's benefit, bereavement benefit or industrial death benefit.

3. Figures for attendance allowance and disability living allowance represented in the disabled group and carer's allowance represented in the carers group include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended.
4. The constituency is as per Westminster Parliament of May 2005.
5. Statistical Group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. More detail available at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/wa/tabtool_wa.html

6. Population estimates are taken from mid 2008 figures. 'Working age' is defined as males aged over 16 and under 65 and females aged over 16 and under 60.

Source:

Work and Pensions Information Directorate; Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Uprating

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the effects on *(a)* men and *(b)* women of uprating benefits in line with the consumer prices index. [8105]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

Analysis of the impact of Budget measures is undertaken at the household level. Benefits and tax credits are awarded based on family income. There is significant variation in the way that households allocate their resources, and interactions between the tax and benefit system are complex. For these reasons any gender analysis based on a single set of assumptions would not be robust.

The above-indexation increases to the child tax credit announced at Budget will help support low-income families with children, and the Government will continue to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Research

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research projects on public attitudes to the use of pesticides her Department has funded since 1997; what the *(a)* research topic, *(b)* start date, *(c)* cost and *(d)* project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8036]

Richard Benyon: The 1996-97 survey of public attitudes to the environment for England and Wales included two questions on pesticides. The work was carried out by MORI, fieldwork was carried out between November 1996 and January 1997 and the report was published in September 1998. The Survey of public attitudes to quality of life and to the environment 2001 included three questions on pesticides. The work was carried out by the Office for National Statistics, fieldwork was carried out between January and April 2001 and the report was published in October 2002.

The results of these surveys are available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/pubatt/index.htm

No cost can be meaningfully ascribed to the pesticides questions within these surveys as these questions made up only a small part of the surveys. No questions on pesticides were included in the 2007 or 2009 attitude surveys.

Project PS2302 on the "acceptability of pesticide effects on non-target species" had scheduled start and completion dates of 1 November 2002 and 31 October 2004 respectively. The cost was £143,750 and the main contractor was Crane Consultants. The report can be found at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=11761&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=PS2302&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

Bees

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research her Department has carried out on the effects of neonicotinoids on the honey bee population. [8494]

Mr Paice: As part of its pesticides research programme the Government fund a number of projects in support of the development of the pesticides risk assessment process. A number of these relate specifically to the potential impact of pesticides on honeybees, both from the wide scale professional use and home-garden use of insecticides. These projects were completed last year and final reports have been published. Previous work on the risk posed to honeybees by systemic insecticides, such as imidacloprid, has fed into the international risk assessment models for honeybees due to be adopted later this year by the European Plant Protection Office.

The rigorous EU scientific process for approval of pesticide active substances and the supporting national processes for individual products protect human health and the environment, including wildlife, provided products are used in accordance with the approval and any related conditions. This approval process takes account of the potential impact on bees. The Government will, of course, act immediately on any concrete evidence of adverse impacts of pesticides on bees in the UK.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research her Department has commissioned on the *(a)* possible links between badgers and bovine tuberculosis and *(b)* possible preventative measures; and what the results of such research have been. [8490]

Mr Paice: The information is as follows:

(a) The largest single piece of research on badgers and bovine TB is the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT), carried out by the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB. The ISG's final report, published in 2007, explicitly states that badgers contribute significantly to the disease in cattle.

(b) The RBCT examined the impact of two different badger culling strategies on TB incidence in cattle. Results showed that annual proactive culling was associated with a 23% reduction in TB incidence in cattle herds in culled areas, but a 25% increase in TB incidence in herds in the surrounding 2 km un-culled ring. The increase in surrounding areas is thought to be due to changes in badger behaviour following social disturbance brought about by culling—the "perturbation effect". Since the end of the RBCT, regular monitoring of TB incidence has shown continued benefits of culling on TB incidence in proactively culled areas for at least 3.5 years after culling. A beneficial effect was also observed in the 2 km ring surrounding culled areas for 2.5 years immediately after culling stopped. Reactive, localised culling was stopped by Ministers in November 2003 as early interim results from the reactively culled areas showed an increase of 18.9% new confirmed TB cattle herd incidents when compared with survey-only areas.

DEFRA has been funding research into badger vaccines since 1998. An injectable badger vaccine has been shown to be both safe and effective in experimental studies and is now licensed for use. Research continues into an oral badger vaccine. Modelling work to help us understand the effect of vaccination, in isolation and in combination with culling, is ongoing.

In 2005, DEFRA commissioned a project to examine the effectiveness of biosecurity measures to prevent badger visits to farm buildings. This project finished in October 2009. It found that badger exclusion measures could, if properly employed and maintained, prevent 100% of badger visits to farm buildings, but that compliance varied widely among farmers.

Research into immunocontraception as a method of controlling badger numbers is being funded through programmes elsewhere in DEFRA. As the results will be relevant to TB control, DEFRA's TB Programme will review the findings of this study when they become available.

Departmental Private Roads

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the former Secretary of State's letters to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire dated 3 February and 19 April 2010, what progress has been made in discussions with the Scottish Executive on the maintenance burdens of access roads 5 and 6 in property owned by her Department in Almondbank, Perthshire. [8763]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has proposed to Scottish Ministers that the roadway exclusively serving their retained land at Site 6 be formally transferred to the Scottish Government. Scottish Ministers have indicated a desire to explore the proposed transfer and are progressing their interest.

Domestic Waste: Recycling

Dr Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 20 local authorities recycled the most domestic refuse in 2009. [8308]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the 20 local authorities in England that sent the highest tonnage of household waste to be recycled, composted or reused between October 2008 and September 2009. This is the latest 12-month period for which published data is available.

Tonnes of household waste sent for recycling/composting/reuse, October 2008 to September 2009

Local authority	*Tonnes*
Birmingham City Council	137,885
Leeds City Council Metropolitan Borough Council	100,347
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	64,577
Sheffield City Council	61,096
Bradford City Metropolitan District Council (Metropolitan Borough Council)	60,529
Wakefield City Metropolitan District Council	59,488
Bristol City Council	59,018
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	57,296
Cornwall	56,394
Cheshire East	54,933
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	53,461
Wiltshire	52,819
Bromley London Borough	51,438
South Gloucestershire Council	51,075
Bexley London Borough	50,655
Milton Keynes Council	50,167
Derby City Council	49,344
County Durham	49,190
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	48,525
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	48,456

The amount sent for recycling is affected by many factors, such as the size of the population in each local authority. The following table shows which 20 local authorities in England had the highest household recycling, composting and reuse rate as a percentage of all waste collected in the period October 2008 to September 2009.

Percentage of household waste sent for recycling/composting/reuse, October 2008 to September 2009)

Local authority	*Percentage*
Rochford District Council	64.08
Cotswold District Council	62.93
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	61.72
East Lindsey District Council	58.14
South Hams District Council	57.85
Teignbridge District Council	57.71
Huntingdonshire District Council	56.29
North Kesteven District Council	55.16
Waveney District Council	54.23
Ryedale District Council	54.09
South Shropshire District Council	53.84
Rutland County Council	53.66
South Cambridgeshire District Council	53.62
Rushcliffe Borough Council	53.53
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	53.26
Harborough District Council	53.19
Central Bedfordshire	53.09
Cheshire East	52.79
Uttlesford District Council	52.46
Shropshire	52.03

Source: WasteDataFlow.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what projects on public attitudes to genetically-modified crops, food and feed her Department has funded since 1997; what the *(a)* topic, *(b)* start date, *(c)* cost and *(d)* project code was of each such project; who the main contractor was in each case; and which such projects have been completed to date. [8030]

Mr Paice: DEFRA part-funded the 'GM Nation' public debate that was planned and run by an independent steering board in 2002 and 2003. The board appointed the Central Office of Information as the prime contractor for the debate. The total cost was £562,000 of which DEFRA contributed £282,000. Other funding contributions were made by the former Department of Trade and Industry and the devolved Administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This was not a research project as such and therefore did not have a project code.

DEFRA also funded a research project, code CB02023, on the willingness of consumers to pay to reduce or eliminate GM products or derivatives from the supply chain. The contract started in April 2003 and ended in January 2004; it was carried out by the University of Manchester at a cost of £94,550.

GM Inspectorate: Expenditure

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure her Department has incurred on the GM Inspectorate for England and Wales in each year since 1997. [8028]

Mr Paice: Official inspections are carried out to ensure that authorised trial releases of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) comply with the conditions specified in the statutory consent. The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) inspects GM crop trials and the Health and Safety Executive inspects GM vaccine trials, both on behalf of DEFRA. In addition, Fera will investigate and take action for DEFRA in relation to unauthorised releases of GMOs. Expenditure on this activity is given in the following table. Figures for earlier years are not readily available.

The figures for Fera inspections up to 2004-05 reflect the large number of sites involved in the farm scale evaluation trials of GM herbicide-tolerant crops.

£

	Expenditure on GM crop trial inspections and unauthorised GMO releases (Fera)	*Expenditure on GM vaccine trial inspections (HSE)*
2002-03	223,234	0
2003-04	189,280	3,520
2004-05	135,641	0
2005-06	34,820	0
2006-07	22,273	676
2007-08	9,480	0
2008-09	29,753	800
2009-10	21,038	5,921

Inland Waterways: Dredging

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statutory navigations operated by *(a)* British Waterways canals and *(b)* the Environment Agency are closed to navigation pending dredging. [8455]

Richard Benyon: British Waterways and the Environment Agency currently have no statutory navigations closed pending dredging.

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans for dredging *(a)* British Waterways and *(b)* the Environment Agency has for 2010-11. [8456]

Richard Benyon: British Waterways currently has plans to dredge between 30 kilometres (km) and 40 km of its waterways during 2010-11. This will take place at 18 locations, at an estimated cost of £4.5 million.

The Environment Agency plans to dredge a number of sites across its navigations in 2010-11; these will cover an equivalent length of 5 kms. Due to the fact that nearly all of the Environment Agency's navigations are heavily modified natural watercourses, with high flows naturally removing or re-profiling shoals and silt deposits, this greatly reduces the need for the agency to dredge extensive lengths of waterway.

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what length of *(a)* British Waterways canals and *(b)* Environment Agency waterways have been dredged in each of the last 10 years. [8457]

Richard Benyon: British Waterways estimates that it has dredged the following lengths of waterways for each of the past 10 years:

	Length (km)
2000-01	143
2001-02	113
2002-03	90
2003-04	95
2004-05	40
2005-06	64
2006-07	58
2007-08	53
2008-09	45
2009-10	64

The Environment Agency does not maintain detailed records on the length of navigation dredging it has undertaken. However, it estimates that it has dredged a length of waterway equivalent to 5km per year, across its waterways over each of the past 10 years.

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the length of *(a)* British Waterways canals and *(b)* Environment Agency waterways which require dredging. [8458]

Richard Benyon: British Waterways estimates that 291 kilometres (km) of their canals and rivers require dredging, and are prioritised accordingly out of the total of 3,283 km for which they are responsible.

The Environment Agency considers that the current dredging operations of around 5km per year meets the requirements of its navigations, and believes that this level best balances the cost/benefit for navigation with the needs of the environment.

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of dredged material was removed from *(a)* British Waterways canals and *(b)* Environment Agency waterways in each of the last 10 years. [8459]

Richard Benyon: British Waterways estimates that it has removed the following volumes of materials from its waterways in each of the past 10 years:

	Volume cubic metres
2000-01	162,000
2001-02	155,000
2002-03	113,000
2003-04	136,000
2004-05	64,000
2005-06	89,000
2006-07	125,000
2007-08	93,000
2008-09	97,000
2009-10	64,000

The Environment Agency estimates that on average it dredges some 50,000 cubic metres of material from its navigations per year. Some of this material is not removed, but is re-distributed to other parts of the river bed within key sites.

Phytophthora Ramorum

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent estimate she has made of the rate at which phytophthora ramorum is spreading *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the South West; [8125]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the geographical extent of phytophthora ramorum. [8126]

Mr Paice: Since the first detection of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Sussex in May 2002, a systematic programme of surveys has been carried out by the Food and Environment Research Agency and the Forestry Commission covering nurseries, garden centres, woodland and other sites in the wider environment, with action being taken to destroy infected plants that posed a risk of further spread, especially Rhododendrons.

While the disease caused by the pathogen has spread, and is now found in much of the south-west of England and Wales, occasionally in other parts of the south of England, and to a much lesser extent in Scotland, the rate of spread and the intensity of infection has been slowed by the action taken.

In August 2009, the pathogen was found for the first time in Japanese larch, a commercial forestry tree species, at sites in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, and surveys have found a number of further sites where trees have been infected. These surveys have intensified and are ongoing, supported by aerial surveillance by helicopter. Infected sites totalling around 1,850 hectares have been found in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and in South Wales. The evidence suggests that all of the woodlands that have been found with dead and dying larch could have become infected as a result of a weather event causing aerial spread, possibly in 2008. The extent of subsequent spread is still being investigated.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to set up an advisory group to promote sustainable local procurement. [7811]

Mr Paice: The Government have no immediate plans to set up an advisory group to promote sustainable food procurement. The Government are however examining ways of promoting local procurement including the further development of local food hubs.

The procurement of food in the public sector is an area where the coalition Government is looking for progress both in terms of efficiencies and sustainability. The public sector must lead by example on this and DEFRA, with input from other Government Departments and external organisations, is already looking into how this can be achieved. For example, we are in the process of considering criteria for Government Buying Standards (GBS) to ensure the public sector procures sustainable food and catering services. GBS are mandatory for central Government Departments and their executive agencies and these standards will be promoted to the wider public sector.

Salmon

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much farmed Atlantic salmon was produced in the UK in each of the last five years; and what proportion was sold under the EU protected Geographical Indication Appellation Regulation for Scottish Farmed Salmon in each such year. [8568]

Richard Benyon: Farming of Atlantic salmon in the UK is dominated by Scotland, although a small production does occur in Northern Ireland. The following table shows the combined Scottish and Northern Ireland annual production from 2004 to 2008.

UK Atlantic Salmon production

	thousand tonnes
2004	159
2005	130
2006	132
2007	130
2008	129

DEFRA does not hold information on the proportion of Atlantic salmon sold under the EU Protected Geographical Indication Appellation Regulation for Scottish Farmed Salmon.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their agency spent on televisions in each year since 1997. [7498]

The Solicitor-General: Since launching in 2008-09, the National Fraud Authority has spent £1,335.98 on the purchase and installation of a television and DVD player. In 2007 the Serious Fraud Office purchased four plasma screen televisions at a total cost £9,240.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) records show that it has purchased one plasma television screen in the last five years. The screen was purchased during 2005-06 and cost £5,287, including installation costs.

CPS central records only hold items that cost over the capitalisation threshold of £500 and it is possible that televisions have been purchased throughout the CPS at a lower cost. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO), which merged with CPS on 1 January 2010, previously purchased one plasma screen television during 2006-07 at a cost of £1,755, which included purchase and installation.

The Attorney-General's Office bought six televisions for the refurbishment of their new headquarters, 20 Victoria street in spring 2007, costing £5,376.67 plus VAT.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department purchased two televisions in each of the years 2005, 2006 and 2007, at a respective cost of £3,198 plus VAT (2005); £1,798 plus VAT (2006); and £3,302 plus VAT (2007). Five of the six are for use in in-house training and not for receiving television signals.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Attorney-General which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Law Officers' Departments have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7999]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers and the Director of Public Prosecutions have been driven by the Government Car Service (GCS) since the Government took office.

On some occasions a small number of officials in the Attorney-General's Office have accompanied the Law Officers on official business, but their names cannot be disclosed on the grounds of staff confidentiality.

The Treasury Solicitor has used the GCS on two occasions since 6 May. During this period the Solicitor-General has claimed £12 for a taxi journey and the Director of Public Prosecutions has claimed for four taxi journeys at a total cost of £108.60.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Attorney-General how much *(a)* the Law Officers' Department and *(b)* their agency spent on employee training in each year since 1997. [7637]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

				Cost (£)
	NFA[1]	*SFO*	*CPS*[2]	*TSol*[3]
1997-98	—	129,048	—	—
1998-99	—	136,960	—	298,000
1999-2000	—	126,948	—	333,000
2000-01	—	182,936	—	400,000
2001-02	—	239,997	—	549,000
2002-03	—	179,833	—	654,000
2003-04	—	152,510	4,033,000	773,000
2004-05	—	250,699	3,863,000	654,000
2005-06	—	320,537	3,986,000	559,000
2006-07	—	377,173	3,956,000	678,000
2007-08	—	425,289	3,568,000	765,000
2008-09	9,617	445,191	3,456,000	817,000
2009-10	37,656	236,821	3,160,000	704,000

[1] The training cost for 2009-10 reflects an increase in staff numbers and full year impact of NFA operations.

[2] The figures for employee training provided from 2005-06 onwards include costs for the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Service (RCPO) who merged with the CPS on 1 January 2010. The data are taken from the Financial Management System and are only available from 2003-04 onwards, data for earlier years could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. The figures include road, rail and air travel—and also charges for car hire.

[3] Figures cover the amount spent by the Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate for each year. The figures prior to 1998-1999 are not retained on the Department's accounting system, and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate was not included within the Department until mid-2001.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports on levels of anti-Semitism in *(a)* Ukraine, *(b)* Latvia and *(c)* Estonia since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [7069]

Mr Lidington: There are no significant problems with anti-Semitism in Latvia and Estonia. In recent years there have been a number of anti-Semitic incidents in Ukraine. We take a serious view of these incidents and continue to urge the Ukrainian authorities to tackle them in a determined way in accordance with Ukraine's international commitments. At the EU-Ukraine Co-operation Council on 15 June 2010, the EU urged the Ukrainian Prime Minister to continue to take further steps to combat intolerance and discrimination against national and other minorities and in particular hate crimes.

Armenia: Genocide

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on recognition of the deaths which took place in the Armenian genocide in 1919. [6916]

Mr Lidington: The terrible suffering that was inflicted on Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century cannot be forgotten. The massacres and crimes that were committed were rightly and robustly condemned by the Government of the day. While we remember the victims of the past, our priority today should be to promote reconciliation between the peoples and governments of Turkey and Armenia. That is the best way to ensure a peaceful and secure future for everyone living in the region.

Cyprus

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his overseas counterparts on a political settlement in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [8842]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the Cyprus settlement negotiations with the Cypriot Foreign Minister, Markos Kyprianou on 12 July 2010. He had also previously discussed the issue with the Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on 8 July 2010. I have discussed the issues with my Turkish counterpart Egemin Bagis. We are committed to supporting the UN's efforts to achieve a settlement based on a bizonal, bicommunal federation with political equality. We want to see a settlement agreed and peacefully implemented by Cypriots for Cypriots to deliver a stable, prosperous and united Cyprus, operating as a valued partner within the EU.

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8288]

Alistair Burt: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the Spending Review.

Departmental Lost Property

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what property has been recorded as *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from the Department in the last 12 months; and what estimate has been made of the cost of the replacement of that property. [5963]

Alistair Burt: The information required is held separately in various Foreign and Commonwealth Office Departments, all of which hold records relating to various losses and thefts of both personal property and official furnishings, including IT equipment losses. This information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Offices

John.Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6559]

Alistair Burt: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Departmental Sick Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days absence because of illness among his Department's staff were recorded in each month since 1997. [8840]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to reducing sickness absence. The average number of days sick leave by UK staff has decreased from 8.9 days in 1997 to 3.5 days in 2009. Per capita sickness absence in the FCO has been consistently below the public sector average.

We do not keep records centrally of sick leave taken by locally-engaged staff members. This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Data collection since 1997 has been complicated by the introduction of new pay and management information systems. It is therefore possible that the figures given as follows do not reflect consistent recording methods.

All figures include staff in FCO positions working for UK Border Agency, and also include staff working for FCO Services, which became a Trading Fund on 1 April 2008.

Annual figures are available from 2000 and monthly figures from April 2006:

	Total number of days	*Average number of days per officer*
1997	n/a	8.9
1998	n/a	8
1999	n/a	n/a
2000	[1]20,900	6.3
2001	25,012	6.6
2002	27,720	4.7
2003	33,219	5.6
2004	35,969	6.2
2005	20,904	3.4
2006	19,102	3.1
2007	20,650	3.6
2008	20,267	3.6
2009	21,271	3.5

n/a = Not available. [1] Estimated.

	Number
2006	
April	2,232
May	2,168
June	1,868
July	1,819
August	1,726
September	1,690
October	1,648
November	1,895
December	1,549
2007	
January	1,682
February	1,674
March	1,770
April	1,641
May	1,777
June	1,530
July	1,723
August	1,671
September	1,572
October	1,832
November	2,028
December	1,750
2008	
January	2,186
February	1,895
March	1,717
April	1,845
May	1,372
June	1,258
July	1,541
August	1,250
September	1,797
October	1,847
November	1,621
December	1,938
2009	
January	1,986
February	2,036
March	1,931
April	1,761
May	1,793
June	1,669
July	2,111
August	1,563
September	1,469
October	1,827
November	1,773
December	1,352
2010	
January	1,385
February	1,362
March	1,660
April	1,334
May	1,535
June	1,365

Diplomatic Service: Redundancy

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which overseas posts his Department is considering for possible closure. [6656]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has stated, we will not secure the UK's economic recovery or our future security and prosperity without looking beyond our shores for new opportunities and new partners. There can be no suggestion that it is in our national interest for our role in the world to wither and shrivel away. The Government reject the idea of strategic shrinkage. Although we keep the size and scope of our network under constant review to ensure it is efficient and effective, any decisions to open or close posts will always take into account the crucial role our overseas network plays in serving the needs and protecting the interests of the British people.

Gaza

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to visit Gaza. [8240]

Alistair Burt: For security and operational reasons, we do not comment on or announce visits by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary significantly in advance.

Iran

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his overseas counterparts on the state of democracy in Iran. [8835]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discusses Iran with his EU counterparts, including the state of democracy, human rights concerns and developments in Iran's nuclear programme. The Foreign Secretary has also discussed Iran with a number of other overseas counterparts. We will continue to work with international partners to voice our concerns over democratic shortcomings in Iran and encourage the Iranian authorities to address the concerns raised by many within Iran following the disputed presidential election in 2009.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Iranian authorities to free the seven Baha'i leaders now in their third year in prison awaiting trial; and if he will make a statement. [7660]

Alistair Burt: The UK remains extremely concerned about the ongoing detention of the seven Baha'i leaders in Iran. In my statement of 10 June 2010, I made clear that the accused should be given due legal process and that their rights be fully protected, in line with international standards.

This is a case I am following closely and I again urge the Iranian Government to cease its harassment of the Baha'i minority, and to respect the rights of the many members of minority groups who continue to face arrest and lengthy prison sentences, often on vaguely worded charges of acting against national security.

Iran: Capital Punishment

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he is making to the President of Iran on the death sentences on Ms Sakineh Ashtiani and others convicted for alleged adultery; and if he will make a statement. [8624]

Mr Jeremy Browne: In a statement on 7 July 2010 my hon. Friend Alistair Burt made clear our deep concern over the reports that Ms Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani would be executed by stoning. EU High Representative Catherine Ashton also issued a statement on 6 July 2010 calling on Iran to halt this and other executions. Following a statement by the Iranian embassy that Ms Ashtiani would not be stoned to death, my hon. Friend telephoned the Iranian ambassador on 9 July 2010the Under-Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) to express concern that Ms Ashtiani could still be executed by different means and urged the Iranian authorities to review her case. We will continue to follow this case closely and raise our concerns with the Iranian authorities.

Iran: Human Rights

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the human rights situation of Jewish people in Iran since his appointment; and if he will make a statement. [7068]

Alistair Burt: I am deeply concerned about the situation of Jewish people, and a number of other minorities, in Iran. The position of the three religious minorities recognised by the constitution—Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians—remains vulnerable. Although recognised minority groups have reserved seats in the Parliament, higher positions in state institutions are reserved exclusively for Shiite Muslims.

Further, government rhetoric and actions often create a threatening atmosphere for non-Shia religious groups. I have stated publicly our support for the rights of minorities in Iran and will continue to raise this issue with the Iranian authorities.

Iraq: Embassies

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for the British Embassy Office in the Kurdistan region of Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [7680]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers continuously review the deployment of FCO resources, including our embassy office in Erbil, and align them with UK interests.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which companies sponsored the arrangements made by the British Embassy in Baghdad to celebrate HM the Queen's Birthday in 2010. [7054]

Alistair Burt: The Queen's Birthday celebration at our embassy in Baghdad was sponsored by the following companies: Shell, HSBC, BAE Systems, Cyril Sweett, ITT, Copperchase, Inanna Diyala, Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB), Mott McDonald and Standard Chartered.

Kyrgyzstan: Politics and Government

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the role of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in responding to the security situation in Kyrgyzstan. [7164]

Mr Lidington: The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), working closely with the UN, EU and other international actors, is playing an important role in helping Kyrgyzstan take steps to ensure peace, institutional stability, open dialogue, rule of law and democracy for all of its people.

The Special Envoy of OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek are at the forefront of this work. Their efforts are reinforced by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and by the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities. I expect to discuss Kyrgyzstan during the informal meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers in Almaty on 16-17 July 2010.

Michael Binnington and Luke Atkinson

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consular assistance his Department provided to *(a)* Michael Binnington and *(b)* Luke Atkinson in respect of legal proceedings in Cyprus. [8709]

Mr Lidington: The role of consular staff when a British national is detained overseas is essentially one of welfare. The Government are not able to interfere with the legal process of another country, nor are we able to give legal advice.

Our consular staff visited Mr Atkinson and Mr Binnington several times during their detention. Both men were given information about local legal systems and processes, together with a list of local Cypriot lawyers. They were advised to pursue their cases through the Cypriot legal system.

USA: Pakistan

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to his US counterpart to support the repatriation of Dr Aafia Siddiqui to Pakistan on humanitarian grounds. [8141]

Alistair Burt: Dr Aafia Siddiqui is a Pakistani national currently standing trial in the US on terrorism charges. As a Pakistani national, any representations would be made to the US by the Pakistani authorities on Dr Siddiqui's behalf.

Yemen: Counter-terrorism

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on countering terrorism in Yemen under each category of expenditure in each of the last three years. [7729]

Alistair Burt: Due to the sensitive nature of counter terrorism projects, we cannot provide details of the exact amounts allocated to projects in specific countries under the counter terrorism and radicalisation programme.

CABINET OFFICE

Business: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many small businesses in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency generated a turnover of *(a)* between £70,000 and £100,000 and *(b)* over £100,000 in the most recent period for which figures are available. [7191]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many small businesses in Bexleyheath and Crayford generated a turnover of (a) between £70,000 and £100,000 and (b) over £100,000 in the most recent period for which figures are available. [7191]

Annual statistics on business counts are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at

www.statistics.gov.uk

Data are for enterprises in the constituency of Bexleyheath and Crayford with less than 50 employment and for the year 2009.

Count of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises with less than 50 employment for the constituency of Bexleyheath and Crayford

Turnover size	*Count*
£70,000-£99,000	400
£100,000+	1,195

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 26 May 2010, *Official Report,* columns 2-3WS, on savings (2010-11), under what budgetary headings the £79 million of savings allocated to his Department will be made. [6828]

Mr Hurd: The savings have been allocated as follows:

Administration budget: £4.25 million

Programme budget: £68.25 million

Capital budget: £6.5 million.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7303]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office staff will contribute to the drafting of ministerial speeches as appropriate. Special advisers also contribute to the preparation of speeches in line with their code of conduct.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agency and non-departmental public bodies spent on training for its employees in each year since 1997. [7641]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 668W.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Norwich

Simon Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people aged under 25 years old and resident in Norwich South constituency claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [7050]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged under 25 years old and resident in Norwich South constituency claimed jobseekers allowance in (a) 1997 (b) 2007 (c) 2008 and (d) 2009. (7050)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

The Norwich South parliamentary constituency changed to new boundaries at the 2010 general election. Figures for the current Norwich South parliamentary constituency are only available from 2005.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of persons aged under 25 years claiming JSA, resident in the current Norwich South parliamentary constituency for May in each year since 2005, including May 2010, the latest period for which figures are available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] aged under 25 resident in Norwich South constituency claiming jobseeker's allowance

	Number
May 2005	565
May 2006	675
May 2007	610
May 2008	555
May 2009	815
May 2010	860

[1] Age data are only available for computerised claims, which account for 99.7% of all claims.

Note:

Data rounded to nearest five.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Lone Parents: Birmingham

Jack Dromey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Birmingham Erdington constituency. [6937]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Birmingham Erdington constituency. (6937)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary. Birmingham Erdington, as constituted in 2008, consisted of five electoral wards, one more than the current constituency. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituency.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 (Thousand)*
Birmingham Erdington constituency (2008)	5

Source:

APS January to December 2008

Lone Parents: Milton Keynes

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents there are in Milton Keynes North constituency. [7064]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many lone parents there are in Milton Keynes North constituency. (7064)

The number and type of families in the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Estimates are provided for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16.

The latest available figure is for 2008 and is shown in the table below. This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary. 'North East Milton Keynes', as constituted in 2008, consisted of 15 electoral wards, three more than the current constituency of 'Milton Keynes North'. The breakdown of the data available is not sufficiently detailed to determine whether the newly constituted parliamentary constituency contains the same estimated number of lone parents as the 2008 constituency.

Geographical area	*Number of lone parent families—with at least one child under 16 (thousand)*
North East Milton Keynes constituency (2008)	3

Source:

APS January to December 2008

National Citizen Service

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made in establishing a national citizen service. [7265]

Mr Hurd: Details of this programme will be announced by the Cabinet Office later this year, with a launch expected in 2011.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advantage West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the value generated for the West Midlands regional economy by each £1 spent by Advantage West Midlands in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [8408]

Mr Prisk: An independent review conducted by PwC in 2006/07 found that RDAs on average generated a return of £4.50 for every £1 spent. The average return for AWM is just under £4 to £1. This ranges from £1:£1 for the 'People and skills' programme to £16:£1 for their individual enterprise support scheme. But, as the PwC analysis also revealed, much of RDAs' spending was of poor value. More than half the RDAs' economic benefits came from just 20% of their spending.

In these constrained times, we need to ensure that all spending is valuable and worthwhile. That is why this Government are creating local enterprise partnerships (LEPs), accountable to the people affected by the LEPs actions, so that money is spent on programmes that will make a difference, not to meet Whitehall targets.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding Advantage West Midlands provided for businesses in the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [8409]

Mr Prisk: The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the regional economic strategy and their corporate plans. The Department does not hold details of funding for businesses given by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to how many businesses Advantage West Midlands provided funding to in each of the last five years. [8410]

Mr Prisk: The number of businesses supported by Advantage West Midlands (AWM) over the last five years are set out within the RDA's annual reports and accounts and can be found at:

www.advantagewm.co.uk

The annual reports are also available in the Libraries of the House.

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were placed in training by Advantage West Midlands in each of the last five years. [8411]

Mr Prisk: Figures in Advantage West Midlands' (AWM) annual reports indicate that the RDA has assisted more than 100,000 people with training. The following figures provide the annual breakdown of the numbers of people assisted.

	Number
2005-06	27,500
2006-07	22,550
2007-08	21,630
2008-09	16,622
2009-10	17,077
Total	105,379

Apprentices

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many apprenticeships were taken up by people aged between 30 and 50 years in each of the last five years; [7930]

(2) what target he has set for the number of apprenticeships to be taken up by people aged between 30 and 50 years in each of the next five years. [7931]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows apprenticeship starts for learners aged between 30 and 50 years old. Figures are given for 2004/05 to 2008/09, the latest year for which full year data are available. The upper age limit of 25 was abolished in 2006.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts for 30 to 50-year-olds, 2004/05 to 2008/09

	Number
2004/05	200
2005/06	100
2006/07	[1]—
2007/08	16,100
2008/09	33,000

[1] Indicates a base figure of less than 50.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are based on age at start of programme.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record.

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 24 June:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

167,000 adult apprenticeship starts are planned in the 2010/11 academic year. Our plans do not separately target those aged 30 to 50. Plans for adult apprenticeships for 2010/11 and 2011/12 will be confirmed in the autumn. The Government's decision to redeploy £150 million of our savings for 2010-11, creating an additional 50,000 places, demonstrates our commitment to high-quality employer owned apprenticeships.

Apprentices: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has to increase the number of engineering apprenticeships in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency; [8205]

(2) what plans he has to increase the number of manufacturing apprenticeships in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency. [8206]

Mr Hayes: We are seeking to drive up the skills levels of the work force by directing public funding where it will bring the clearest benefits. Apprenticeships will play a vital role in this. Our decision to redeploy £150 million of Train to Gain funding to create 50,000 high-quality, employer-led apprenticeship places is just the beginning. My ambition is no less than to build a system that facilitates more apprenticeships in England than we have ever seen before.

To build an advanced economy we need advanced skills in manufacturing and engineering and apprenticeships are a major contributor to the nation's engineering and manufacturing skills base. Last year 37,000 people started an apprenticeship in engineering and manufacturing technologies in England and I want to see this number rise. That is why this Government are committed to increasing the number of apprenticeships, in particular, advanced and higher apprenticeships. We are also committed to driving up the quality of apprenticeships and ensuring, through Sector Skills Councils, that all apprenticeship frameworks meet the needs of the real economy. Sector Skills Councils also have a key role in driving up demand from employers within their sectors and encouraging more businesses to offer apprenticeship places.

We fund apprenticeships on a national basis through the Skills Funding Agency (SFA)—there are no regional or sectoral allocations. We expect the SFA to work with the National Apprenticeships Service, employers, colleges and training organisations in Dudley and the West Midlands to make additional apprenticeship places available where there is local demand.

Batteries: Recycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that waste industrial and automotive batteries are recycled. [8865]

Mr Prisk: The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No. 890) implement certain provisions in the Batteries and Accumulators and Waste Batteries and Accumulators Directive (2006/66/EC), including those which came into effect on 1 January 2010, prohibiting the disposal of waste industrial and automotive batteries by landfilling or incineration and requiring their recycling. The regulations place a responsibility on producers of such batteries to ensure they are recycled when becoming waste, but also permit this to be done by other licensed operators.

Business Links

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Business Link service; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each assessment on the effectiveness of the service he has considered. [7025]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* A full economic impact assessment of Business Link was published by BERR in 2007. An early stage assessment of the Business Link-delivered health checks was completed in 2009. Both of these reports are in the Library and are freely available from the BIS website. Business Link is currently under review and the Department will be drawing on the data provided within these evaluations as it considers ways to modernise how business support is delivered.

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of Business Link. [8655]

Mr Prisk: The Coalition Government are committed to abolishing the regional development agencies (RDAs) and establishing local enterprise partnerships. Business Link is provided by the RDAs and we are currently reviewing all the functions of the RDAs to determine whether and how best to deliver them in future. Business Link is being reviewed as part of this process.

Business Links: Expenditure

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department allocated to Business Link in each of the last three years. [8258]

Mr Prisk: In 2005, responsibility for managing Business Link face-to-face services was transferred to the RDAs. The previous budget used to deliver Business Link services was added to the Department's contribution towards the RDA "Single-Pot". This allows the regions to draw down as much or as little funding as they see fit to deliver the service in their areas.

Over the last three years, the RDAs have allocated the following budgets to their Business Link providers:

BL funding over period 2007/10[1]

			£ million
	2007/08	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
NWRDA	14.1	16.5	19.7
NERDA	12.9	12.9	19.1
AWM	22.8	35.2	16.7
EMDA	13.0	13.7	14.6
EEDA	15.8	16.0	14.5
Y&H	13.0	13.0	15.7
LDA	19.4	26.7	17.0
SWRDA	19.6	19.9	13.6
SEEDA	24.0	24.0	22.7
Total	154.6	177.9	153.6

Business: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any businesses in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley received support from the Capital for Enterprise fund in the last 12 months. [7855]

Mr Prisk: The Capital for Enterprise Fund has made investments in 38 businesses with a total value of £50.8 million. These include 13 investments in London and four in the south-east of England. Given the limited number of investments in these regions, and for reason of commercial confidentiality, I am unable to provide a breakdown by parliamentary constituency as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received support.

Business: Government Assistance

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Financial Intermediary Service; and what steps he plans to take to assist small businesses to access finance. [6996]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to abolishing the regional development agencies and establishing local enterprise partnerships. Business Link is provided by the RDAs and we are currently reviewing all the functions of the RDAs to determine whether and how best to deliver them in future. Business Link and the Financial Intermediary Service are being reviewed as part of this process.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department took to assist small and medium-sized business during the recent recession; and if he will make a statement. [8867]

Mr Prisk: It is an established convention that Minsters of one Administration cannot see the documents of a previous Administration. I am therefore unable to provide the information requested.

Business: North East

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of *(a)* Business Link and *(b)* publicly-funded business support in (i) the North East and (ii) Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [7925]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Stockton North (Alex Cunningham) on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 804W.

Business: Regulation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which items of regulation have been identified for repeal under his one in, one out policy. [8363]

Mr Prisk: Departments are currently identifying which regulations can be removed or simplified to comply with the one-in one-out rule.

Members of the public also have the opportunity, through the Your Freedom website, to suggest which regulations could be removed to reduce the burden on business.

Companies

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies were struck off the Register of Companies in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in action instigated by (i) the company and (ii) the Registrar in 2009-10; how many such applications in each category did not proceed because objections were received; in respect of how many such applications in each category objections were received from HM Revenue and Customs; how many such applications in each category resulted in a striking off within six months of an objection being made regardless of that objection; how many companies struck off in each category (A) never filed accounts and (B) had accounts overdue for filing at the time the application was made; how many strikings-off initiated by the Registrar in each category were in cases where accounts were overdue for filing at the time the Registrar commenced action to strike off; and how many months each company in each category struck off by the Registrar had been in existence since their incorporation. [7041]

Mr Davey: Companies House can provide figures for England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland but not for Wales alone, as it is not a separate jurisdiction from England.

The numbers of companies in each category struck off in 2009-10 were as follows:

Jurisdiction	*Voluntary dissolution—instigated by the company*	*Compulsory dissolution—instigated by the registrar*
Scotland	10,385	8,792
England and Wales	159,199	326,657
Northern Ireland	96	26

The numbers of companies in each category not struck off because objections were received were as follows:

Jurisdiction	*Voluntary dissolution—instigated by the company*	*Compulsory dissolution—instigated by the Registrar*
Scotland	1,962	2,976
England and Wales	9,358	17,943
Northern Ireland	91	22

The numbers of companies in each category where objections to striking off were received from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs were as follows:

Jurisdiction	*Voluntary dissolution—instigated by the company*	*Compulsory dissolution—instigated by the Registrar*
Scotland	1,934	2,796
England and Wales	8,882	13,870
Northern Ireland	85	19

The numbers of companies struck off following an objection were as follows:

Jurisdiction	*Voluntary dissolution—instigated by the company*	*Compulsory dissolution—instigated by the Registrar*
Scotland	2,935	1,452
England and Wales	15,827	24,101
Northern Ireland	9	1

The numbers above are higher than might be expected because the objection to the striking off may have been made in the previous year—2008-09.

The question as to how many companies were dissolved because no accounts were filed can be answered only in relation to compulsory dissolutions and are as follows:

Jurisdiction	*Compulsory dissolution—instigated by the registrar*
Scotland	7,147
England and Wales	135,636
Northern Ireland	8

The question as to how many companies were dissolved where accounts were overdue for filing can be answered only in relation to compulsory dissolutions and are as follows:

	Compulsory dissolution—instigated by the registrar	
Jurisdiction	*Number*	*Percentage*
Scotland	8,792	100
England and Wales	326,657	100
Northern Ireland	26	100

As the registrar only instigates striking off action against companies for failing to file their accounts the figures above will be the same as for the total number of companies stuck off compulsorily (see first table).

The figures relating to how many months each company, in each category, struck off by the registrar had been in existence since its incorporation has been deposited in the Library due to the large volume (134 pages) of the information.

Companies: Registration

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of applications to register a company using Form IN01, which are rejected by Companies House owing to errors in the completion of the form. [8389]

Mr Davey: The most recent estimate made of the percentage of applications to register a company, which are rejected by Companies House is 17.1% overall. This figure includes errors in the completion of the form IN01, errors in the company's model articles (which must accompany the IN01), and a missing or incorrect fee.

Electric Vehicles

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether he plans to implement the proposed consumer incentive for electric vehicles; [7828]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely effects on the manufacturing industry in the North East of the proposed £5,000 consumer incentive for the purchase of electric vehicles. [7829]

Mr Prisk: The final decisions on the consumer incentive for electric vehicles rest with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport. He is considering this issue and, as has been previously stated, a statement will be made as soon as possible.

No assessment has been made of the impact of the incentive on manufacturing on a regional basis.

Finance Yorkshire

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much Finance Yorkshire has provided in loans to businesses since its creation; [8171]

(2) how many applications for funding Finance Yorkshire has *(a)* refused and *(b)* approved since its creation; [8172]

(3) what the budget was for Finance Yorkshire in 2009-10; and how much of that budget was spent on loans to businesses. [8173]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 13 July 2010]:* Finance Yorkshire has not yet provided any loans to businesses. Since its launch on 12 March 2010, Finance Yorkshire has processed 306 applications for funding. From these, 293 applications have been rejected and 13 applications have received approval in principle and are at offer stage before final due diligence and completion. It is anticipated that loans to business will be completed shortly, following the imminent completion of a European Investment Bank (EIB) loan to Finance Yorkshire.

In 2009-10 Finance Yorkshire spent £400,484 on set-up costs, including for example IT equipment and upgrading the premises to ensure they are fit for purpose. A further £114,696 was spent on running costs, including staff salaries.

£45 million was committed to Finance Yorkshire as programme funds in 2009-10 comprising £15 million RDA Single Programme and a £30 million European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant. This investment was made in order to draw down a £45 million loan from the EIB.

Foreign Investment in UK: North West

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department has made available to attract inward investment to *(a)* Wirral West and *(b)* the North West in the last three years. [8257]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is as follows:

Under the current economic development structures in England, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine what assistance to provide to business, subject to the terms of the accountability and financial framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the regional economic strategy and their corporate plans.

North West[1]

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department that leads on work to attract high quality foreign direct investment (FDI) into the UK in partnership with economic development agencies, and other Government Departments, across the country. This delivers a high standard of service throughout the investment process. Full use is made of the UK's global network of embassies, high commissions and consulates. Significantly assisted by that work, over the last few years, the Northwest has been the most successful UK region, outside of the South East, for attracting FDI projects.

The total number of FDI projects for the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 was 511 (see table). In 2009-10, despite the current economic climate, there were 179 FDI projects in the North West, estimated to involve nearly 13,500 jobs—over 7,000 of those being new, the remainder safeguarded. The public sector were involved in nearly 70% of these projects.

[1] *Source:*

UKTI and NWDA

Total North West

	Number/£
2007-08	
Total Projects	156
Associated Jobs	14,444
Public Sector Involved[1]	93
Grant Ass—projects	17
Grant Ass—total (£)	14,554,700
2008-09	
Total Projects	176
Associated Jobs	11,436
Public Sector Involved	111
Grant Ass—projects	11
Grant Ass—total (£)	9,048,400
2009-10	
Total Projects	179
Associated Jobs	13,486
Public Sector Involved	125
Grant Assisted Projects	25
Grant Assistance (£)	38,143,000

[1] Public Sector Involved, Grant Ass—projects and Grant Ass—total (£ million) figures provided by NWDA

Wirral West[2]

Records show no FDI projects over the past three years for postcodes CH48 and 47, which are in Wirral West, and none in the shared constituency postcodes of CH41 and 49.

[2] *Source:*

UKTI

Further Education

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which further education colleges Ministers of his Department have visited since their appointment. [5031]

Mr Hayes: So far I have visited City and Islington College and Uxbridge College. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has visited Birmingham Metropolitan College.

I have written to all college principals on two occasions in regard to FE capital funding and increased freedoms in the FE sector. In addition I have met many college principals personally and had several meetings with the sector representative bodies, the Association of Colleges, the 157 Groups and the Association of Learning Providers.

I am also currently working with my officials on a series of visits across the country during the parliamentary recess and in the autumn academic term.

Further Education: Finance

Roberta Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding each regional development agency contributed to capital building projects for further education colleges in each of the last five years. [8454]

Mr Prisk: The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the accountability and financial framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the regional economic strategy and their corporate plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

Members: Correspondence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to respond to the correspondence of 8 March 2010 from the right hon. Member for Leicester East on his constituent Mr Martin Wheelwright. [9290]

Mr Prisk: The right hon. Member's letter was answered by the then Minister of State for Trade Promotion and Investment on 28 April 2010.

One NorthEast

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many local authorities in the North East his Department consulted before the announcement of proposals to abolish One NorthEast. [9166]

Mr Prisk: The coalition programme set out the Government's intention to support the creation of local enterprise partnerships to replace regional development agencies. The Government confirmed its intention to abolish all regional development agencies in the Budget on 22 June 2010. If it is the clear wish of business and civic leaders to establish a local enterprise partnership for a functional economic area that matches existing regional boundaries, we will not object.

Regional Development Agencies

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 391W, on regional development agencies, what activity *(a)* each regional development agency and *(b)* the National Secretariat for Regional Development Agencies has undertaken to communicate the benefits of the retention of regional development agencies since the general election to stakeholders; and at what cost to the public purse. [6839]

Mr Prisk: The regional development agencies and the RDA Secretariat have not undertaken any activities specifically for the purpose of communicating to stakeholders the benefits of the retention of regional development agencies since the general election.

Regional Development Agencies: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the likely effects on the (i) number of jobs and (ii) economy in (A) the West Midlands and (B) Dudley borough of the abolition of regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [8214]

Mr Prisk: Our proposals are for restructuring the delivery landscape for economic development. Replacing the regional development agencies (RDAs) with local enterprise partnerships will ensure that these partnerships better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas that they serve.

Reorganising the delivery of economic development will ensure a focused targeted delivery of policy/services in areas where it can have the most benefit, and we would not expect that this transition will have a negative impact on the economy in the English regions or the number of jobs.

Sector Skills Councils

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has for the future role of the Sector Skills Councils; and if he will make a statement; [7278]

(2) what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the *(a)* Chair and *(b)* Chief Executive of each Sector Skills Council since 12 May 2010. [7279]

Mr Hayes: The coalition Government believe in a strong employer role and voice in the skills system, and that this is best organised at sectoral level. Sector Skills Councils have a crucial role in all aspects of our skills policy, including apprenticeships. We will continue to empower them as the voice of employers in the skills system—and to challenge them to perform with maximum effectiveness. In June I met with representatives from the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs), including SSC Chief Executives. I also met with Charlie Mayfield, the lead UK Commissioner for employer engagement, and a group of SSC chairs. Over the coming months I plan to meet with all the SSCs as part of a full and active dialogue to identify how best we can realise our ambitions for skills.

Sixth Form Colleges: Capital Investment

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the 293 colleges he expects to receive capital grant support in 2010-11 will include sixth form colleges. [8713]

Mr Hayes: Out of the 293 colleges that the Skills Funding Agency expects to fund in 2010-11, 28 are sixth form colleges. From 1 April 2010 designated sixth form colleges became the responsibility of the Department for Education, however it was agreed that existing approved projects would be funded by the Skills Funding Agency in 2010-11.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the £50 million funding announced by his Department for colleges that have yet to receive significant funding from capital programmes will be available to all sixth form colleges which have not recently received such funding. [8764]

Mr Hayes: The £50 million additional college capital funding is not available to sixth form colleges. As of 1 April 2010 designated sixth form colleges became the responsibility of the Department for Education. Sebastian James, group operations director of DSG international plc, is conducting a comprehensive review of all Department for Education capital investment. The review will guide future spending decisions over the next spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15) and will look at how best to meet demand; make current design and procurement cost-effective and efficient.

Takeovers

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of progress in his Department's review of factors that may be considered by regulators when takeovers are proposed. [8632]

Mr Davey: The Government have no current plans to amend the legislation governing the power to intervene in mergers on public interest grounds. We are satisfied that the existing powers provide the appropriate scope to take action to protect legitimate national interests that might be affected as a result of a merger. The Government will set out their general approach to regulation of takeovers in their forthcoming response to the 6 April report by the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee into Kraft's acquisition of Cadbury (HC 234). The takeover panel's consultation on options for amending the takeover code is due to close by 27 July 2010.

Vocational Training: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to improve the level of skills among the *(a)* youth and *(b)* adult population in (i) the West Midlands, (ii) Dudley borough and (iii) Dudley North constituency. [8212]

Mr Hayes: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on the 15 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 393W. In addition, from August professional, impartial, independent, comprehensive careers advice will be available through Next Step, the integrated adult careers service, to help individuals make the best choices about their progression in learning and work.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department makes available to the public on the health risks of alcohol consumption. [8877]

Anne Milton: The Department provides information on units, national health service drinking guidelines, the health risks of alcohol consumption and advice to help people reduce the amount they drink through the NHS Choices website:

www.drinking.nhs.uk/index.html

Previously, the Department provided information about unit information and the risks of alcohol consumption via the 'Know Your Limits' website. The content of these pages were updated and moved to NHS Choices as part of the 'Alcohol Effects' campaign in March 2010. The 'Alcohol Effects' campaign placed a greater prominence on the health risks of regularly drinking more than the recommended limits.

The Department also provides leaflets and other materials to general practitioners, health professionals and other external organisations with an interest in raising alcohol awareness, through the Alcohol Learning Centre website.

Continuing Care

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to receive the report of the mid-term review of the National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions; [2803]

(2) when he expects the mid-term review of the National Service Framework for Long-Term Medical Conditions to report. [6471]

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions. [8250]

Mr Burstow: We are currently considering the options for the National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions, and will report back in due course.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7572]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's legal services team is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) through a shared service agreement, and they procure external legal advice on our behalf. Figures are not held centrally prior to 2001, but the following table shows their external expenditure on legal advice between 2001 and 2010:

Financial year	*Expenditure (£000)*
2001-02	770.2
2002-03	875.3
2003-04	1,655.1
2004-05	1,102.1
2005-06	1,140.5
2006-07	947.7
2007-08	985.3
2008-09	617.7
2009-10	1,229.7

Notes:

1. These figures include expenditure relating to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, previously Medicines Control Agency, for the whole period, and for Food Standards Agency up to and including 2006-07.
2. These figures do not include data for other non-departmental public bodies and agencies, which is not held centrally, and would incur disproportionate cost to obtain.
3. These figures exclude the cost of the legal team itself.
4. From time to time, the Department obtains legal advice directly, in support of specific programmes or contracts for example. However, this expenditure cannot be separately identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on the Government Car Service since the Government took office. [7971]

Mr Simon Burns: The total invoiced expenditure on government cars since 12 May 2010 for the Department of Health is £78,005.31. The existing contracts, which were subject to a 90-day contract termination period, end on 19 August 2010. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on employee away days in each year since 1997. [7321]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is committed to developing its staff and equipping them with the skills and knowledge to carry out their work. Away days make a contribution to such development.

Away days are typically arranged by individual teams in the Department. No central records of these events are kept, so to collect this information for the core Department would incur disproportionate costs.

Information about the costs of away days is available from four of the Department's currently existing non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), and from its one current agency: the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) These are presented in the following table. For the other NDPBs and agencies, including those which were abolished during the period 1997 to 2010, similar information does not exist or could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

£000

Organisation	1997-2002	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Monitor	—	—	—	19	12	43	57	84	30
Appointments Commission	—	1	0	8	9	0	15	10	9
Care Quality Commission	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
MHRA	—	—	—	21	20	16	48	69	27

Note:

Figures are from various sources and so may not exactly match with accrual accounts. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may include both revenue and capital.

Departmental Travel

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his *(a)* Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on travel for employees in each year since 1997. [7428]

Mr Simon Burns: Expenditure on travel incurred by the Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies from January 2002 to March 2010 is set out in the following table. A majority of travel is booked via the Department's central contract for travel, which covers air, rail and ferry travel. The following figures do not cover all travel spend for the Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies which may be purchased in exceptional cases via another route; for example a member of staff paying for rail ticket at short notice and claiming back the money spent as an expense. There are no central records held for these types of purchases and to provide this information would be at disproportionate cost.

Data before 2002 is not available. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of spend between the Department and its non-departmental public bodies for the period from January 2003 to December 2003.

£

Period	Department	Agencies and non-departmental public bodies
January 2002 to December 2002	5,474,820	3,533,927
January 2003 to December 2003	9,042,135	
April 2004 to March 2005	6,591,243	2,022,877
April 2005 to March 2006	6,729,453	3,125,390
April 2006 to March 2007	5,601,756	3,481,789
April 2007 to March 2008	6,202,412	3,122,724
April 2008 to March 2009	8,512,741	4,037,328
April 2009 to March 2010	8,450,744	4,913,308

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have been driven by the Government Car Service since the Government took office; and how much each of these persons has received in expenses for use of taxis, buses and underground trains in that period. [7972]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently six cars and drivers allocated to the five Ministers and the chief executive of the national health service in the Department. The existing contracts, which were subject to a 90-day contract termination period, end on 19 August 2010. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

No expenses were claimed by the above persons for the use of taxis, buses or underground trains in May and June 2010.

General Practitioners

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he plans to implement his proposals for GP commissioning; [7066]

(2) whether he has plans to give GPs responsibility for commissioning *(a)* hepatitis B and C and *(b)* other specialist services; and if he will make a statement. [7067]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', published on 12 July 2010, sets out our intention to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices. To support GP consortiums in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent National Health Service Commissioning Board. The White Paper proposes that the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for commissioning national and regional specialised services, which may include some services for people with hepatitis.

The White Paper sets out an indicative timetable, commencing with GP consortiums in place in shadow form during 2011-12.

A further document setting out these proposals in more detail will be issued shortly, providing the basis for consultation and engagement with health and care professionals and with the public.

NHS

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to primary care trusts on consultation with patients and the public on reviewing or changing the *(a)* provision of, *(b)* funding of and *(c)* access to a service it commissions individually or jointly with other primary care trusts. [7887]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has produced the following guidance for primary care trusts (PCTs) and other national health service bodies in meeting their responsibilities to involve and consult people in the planning of services and development of proposals for change:

Leading Local Change and Changing for the Better: Guidance when Undertaking Major Changes to NHS Services (May 2008);

Real Involvement—Working with People to Improve Health Services (October 2008); and

Code of Practice on Consultation—BIS Guidance on consultations (2009).

This does not include guidance to PCTs on consultation about funding of and access to services.

NHS: Discharges

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were from NHS hospitals in the most recent period for which figures are available. [8676]

Mr Burstow: In 2009-10 quarter 4 (January to March) there were, on average at any given point, 2,433 acute patients, aged 18 plus, delayed and occupying a hospital bed who were eligible for discharge.

Of these 2,433 acute patients, 77.4% (1,884) were aged 75 or over.

On average at any given time over the quarter there were a further 1,417 non-acute patients whose discharges were also delayed.

Patient (Assisted Dying) Bill

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files his Department holds on *(a)* the Patient (Assisted Dying) Bill [Lords] of Session 2002-03 and *(b)* the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill [Lords] of Session (i) 2003-04 and (ii) 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [8572]

Anne Milton: The Department holds one file on the Patient (Assisted Dying) Bill of Session 2002-03. The file is entitled "Patient Assisted Dying Bill".

The Department holds one file on the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill of the 2003-04 and 2004-05 Sessions. The file is entitled "Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill".

Prescriptions

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of take-up of information prescriptions. [8637]

Mr Burstow: The Department is providing implementation support to the national health service through the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) programme for long-term conditions. In this, each participating team will implement information prescriptions for their chosen condition(s) in a way that best suits their local community. They will use the learning from this to implement information prescriptions for other long-term conditions, and will share their experiences with their peers.

The Department has published guidance, and provided tools and resources to assist with the implementation of information prescriptions. These include an online resource toolkit, e-learning for health and social care staff and an organisational self-assessment toolkit. The Information Prescriptions Service

www.nhs.uk/ips

has recently been launched to give health and care professionals easy access to NHS information alongside quality-assured information from Britain's leading charities.

Implementation of information prescriptions for people with long-term conditions is a matter for the NHS.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish his Department's implementation plan for the roll-out of information prescriptions; and if he will make a statement. [8638]

Mr Burstow: The Department has published guidance, and provided tools and resources to assist with the implementation of information prescriptions. These include an on-line resource toolkit, e-learning for health and social care staff and an organisational self-assessment toolkit. The Information Prescriptions Service

www.nhs.uk/ips

has recently been launched to give health and care professionals easy access to NHS information alongside quality-assured information from Britain's leading charities.

The Department intends to publish an implementation plan for cancer information prescriptions in the autumn. This implementation plan will address a number of specific issues identified during piloting of information prescriptions for cancer patients.

Tobacco

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people work in his Department's tobacco policy team; and if he will make a statement. [8481]

Anne Milton: The tobacco policy team in the Department consists of seven whole-time equivalent civil servants. There are currently also five contract staff, primarily working in the area of smoking cessation delivery. The contract staff will have left the team by the end of March 2011.

Tobacco: Young People

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to tackle the *(a)* purchase and *(b)* consumption of tobacco by underage persons. [8451]

Anne Milton: Smoking is the biggest preventable cause of death. Discussions are taking place across Government to decide how best to tackle this problem in the context of our focus on public health, and our priorities given the challenges facing business competition and costs.

These considerations include the issues of why children start smoking and how they get access to tobacco.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [7684]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We are supporting the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with £6 million in 2010 to support people in conflict affected areas to receive humanitarian assistance in accordance with International Humanitarian Law.

I have recently commissioned a review of the Department for International Development's aid programmes, including the humanitarian programme in Afghanistan. I will make decisions following the outcome of this review.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Forestry

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the problem of deforestation related to production of charcoal in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo region. [7908]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for international Development (DFID) funded an appraisal of options for rural energy use in the Congo Basin in 2009. This included an assessment of the production of charcoal and improved conversion technologies that may reduce the impact on deforestation. The review provided options for addressing deforestation related to charcoal production that could be developed and potentially funded through the African Development Bank (AfDB) administered Congo Basin Forest Fund.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the merits of providing support to energy-saving stove projects in Democratic Republic of Congo. [7934]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) funded an appraisal of options for rural energy use in the Congo Basin in 2009. This included an assessment of reducing wood-fuel consumption by introducing improved stoves. The review provided options for addressing the fuel wood issue that could be developed and potentially funded through the African Development Bank (AfDB) administered Congo Basin Forest Fund.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what reports his Department has received on the plans of Democratic Republic of Congo's Government to increase the area of that country subject to industrial-scale logging; [7935]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the Democratic Republic of Congo's extension of its forestry concession on current and future levels of global carbon dioxide emissions; and if he will make a statement. [7938]

Mr O'Brien: As a participant and member of the World Bank administered Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Department for International Development (DFID) has received and reviewed the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), submitted for grant funding from the FCPF's Readiness Fund. This document makes reference to the possible extension of DRC's forestry concession, but no time period for possible implementation is given.

DFID officials are in contact with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who have confirmed that they have no current plans to extend this concession.

Departmental Manpower

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the salary costs of staff of his Department based in the UK are included in estimates of official development assistance. [7848]

Mr Duncan: The salary costs of DFID staff based in the UK are included in estimates of UK official development assistance (ODA). This is consistent with the guidelines of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on calculating ODA.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what change there has been in the number of UK-based policy staff of his Department in the last five years. [7852]

Mr Duncan: Changes in the number of UK-based home civil servants (HCS) working principally on policy in the Department for International Development (DFID) over the last four years are set out in the following table. This includes HCS working as advisers in the UK and overseas and staff working in dedicated policy departments. Comparable information for the period prior to 31 March 2006 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Date:	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2010*
Number of HCS policy staff	643	572
Total number of HCS staff	1,847	1,619
Percentage of total HCS staff	34.8	35.3

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for future changes in staffing levels at his Department; and if he will make a statement. [7853]

Mr Duncan: In line with other Government Departments, the Department for International Development's (DFID's) administration budget will be set during the comprehensive spending review. After this review decisions will be made on DFID's staffing structure below the senior civil service (SCS). DFID intends to reduce SCS costs by 20% by 2013.

Forests: Carbon Emissions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work his Department undertakes on the establishment of a global forest carbon market. [8015]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is working through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to reform the current framework for international carbon trading in order to deliver cost-effective global emissions reductions and increase finance flows to developing countries. In the long term, integrating forests into this framework is likely to be the most efficient, effective and equitable way of generating finance for reducing emissions from forestry.

The UK is contributing £15 million to the Forest Carbon Partnership Forum (FCPF), which will work in a few pilot countries to test a carbon finance mechanism through a Carbon Fund. This fund is due to be launched by the end of 2010.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the provision of aid to Haiti; what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [8626]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) responded to the earthquake in Haiti with £20 million in emergency support, which included a 64-person search and rescue team and helped provide more than 380,000 people with food, clean water and medical care. DFID has also pledged £2 million for initiatives to reduce Haiti's vulnerability to future disasters.

UK support for reconstruction will be through our contributions to multilateral bodies such as the World Bank, the European Union and the Inter-American Development Bank. These bodies are best placed to lead on reconstruction with the Government of Haiti. The UK's share of the funds pledged by these multilaterals for reconstruction in 2010-11 is over $100 million. We will use our position in these bodies to press for aid to be delivered promptly and effectively. Assistance to Haiti is also regularly discussed in high level meetings with other donors, as well as international fora such as the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Overseas Trade: Ethics

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will encourage British businesses to sign up to the Ethical Trading Initiative and UN Global Compact. [7809]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) strongly supports the Ethical Trading Initiative and the United Nations Global Compact. DFID will continue to encourage British businesses to sign up to these initiatives, which challenge poor labour standards around the world, drive practical measures to improve them, and support broader corporate responsibility.

EDUCATION

Academies

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many expressions of interest by schools in obtaining academy status have come from *(a)* head teachers alone, *(b)* head teachers and chairs of governors, *(c)* chairs of governors alone and *(d)* governing bodies of the school concerned. [5850]

Mr Gibb: The registration form to express an interest in becoming an academy does not request this information. If a school proceeds to submit an application to convert, that must be supported by confirmation that the governing body has passed a resolution agreeing to the application.

Academies: Salisbury

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department expects to issue its decision on the application of Salisbury High School for academy status. [6420]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 July 2010]:* The proposal for Salisbury High School to become an Academy is currently in its feasibility stage. We anticipate that the Secretary of State will make a decision on whether it will move into its implementation phase shortly.

Departmental Buildings

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on office refurbishment in each year since 1997. [7358]

Tim Loughton: Expenditure on office refurbishment by the Department and its predecessors for the years 2007-08 to 2009-10 is shown in the table. Details of amounts spent in earlier years and amounts spent by the Department's NDPBs are unable to be provided within the requested deadline as this would incur disproportionate costs.

Expenditure on refurbishments during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 was principally incurred as a result of an estate rationalisation and maintenance programme. The cost of the work was paid for in just over one year by the savings from vacating Caxton House. This saves approximately £13 million per annum in running costs.

Total spend by DFE on office refurbishments

	£
2007/08	6,827,036
2008/09	4,099,898
2009/10	3,585,353

Departmental ICT

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on information and communication technology in each year since 1997. [7339]

Tim Loughton: The information requested can be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the address is of the head office of each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [5721]

Mr Gibb: The addresses requested are as follows:

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency
Millburn Hill Road
Science Park
Coventry
CV4 7JJ

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
6th Floor
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

Children's Workforce Development Council
2nd Floor
City Exchange
11 Albion Street
Leeds
LS1 5ES

National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services
Triumph Road
Nottingham
NG8 1DH

Office of the Children's Commissioner
1 London Bridge
London
SE1 9BG

Partnerships for Schools
33 Greycoat Street
London
SW1P 2QF

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency
53-55 Butts Road
Earlsdon Park
Coventry
CV1 3BH

School Food Trust
3rd Floor
2 St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk St
Sheffield
S1 2JF

Training and Development Agency for Schools
City Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester
M1 4TD

The Young People's Learning Agency
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT

Departmental Official Hospitality

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on hospitality in each year since 1997. [7446]

Tim Loughton: The information requested cannot be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much capital underspend his Department identified in each of the last five financial years. [3825]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 15 July 2010]:* The following table sets out details of underspends on capital budgets for the last five years.

Underspend

	£ million
2008-09	489.0
2007-08	599.9
2006-07	1,105.2
2005-06	231.3
2004-05	111.9

Data for 2009-10 are now being confirmed, and will be available in the Department's Annual Resource Accounts, which will be published in late July. The bulk of the underspends were caused by delays to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, which related in part to the bureaucratic application process and partly also to local authorities' capacity to deliver to challenging timeframes.

The Secretary of State announced on 5 July 2010 that BSF projects that had not reached financial close would be cancelled.

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Department and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Department. [7298]

Tim Loughton: The Department employs a team of five civil servants who support Ministers in the writing of their speeches. There are no special advisers employed to write speeches but, under the special advisers code of conduct, released by the Cabinet Office in June 2010, contributing to speeches can be part of a special adviser's role in supporting the wider ministerial team.

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies spent on employee awaydays in each year since 1997. [7320]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was established on 12 May 2010. Information on the away days for employees in the Department and predecessor Departments is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Health Education

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the national healthy schools programme; and if he will make a statement. [5185]

Sarah Teather: We are currently reviewing the impact of this programme.

Parents: Local Government Services

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps are being taken to ensure a range of high-quality parenting programmes is available in the most disadvantaged areas. [6848]

Sarah Teather: The Government are providing £94 million nationally for targeted parenting and family interventions in 2010-11 aimed at families who are struggling to manage their children's behaviour. Local areas have discretion over how they organise their family and parenting support services as local people are better able to decide what will work best in their local community.

The Department is working with the Children's Workforce Development Council and the National Academy for Parenting Research at King's College to ensure that evidence based parenting programmes and effective parenting interventions are available. This is through a number of research trials that gather evidence on the overall effectiveness, value for money and long-term cost effectiveness of family interventions against the high costs of a child being taken into care or being placed in a Young Offenders Institution. There is also ongoing work with the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes on sharing good and effective practice in parenting and family support.

We are also working to improve the skills of the parenting work force and to look at what effectively addresses the needs of those working on the front-line. Around 1000 more practitioners across all local authorities will have the opportunity to access training in effective parenting programmes in 2010-11.

Schools

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an estimate of the average number of appropriate schools within two miles of home of a child in year *(a)* one, *(b)* seven and *(c)* 12 in each local authority; and if he will make a statement. [4912]

Mr Gibb: A table containing the requested information for pupils in year one and year seven is shown as follows. The Department collects information in the School Census about Year 12 students attending sixth forms in schools only, we do not collect information about year 12 students in other sixth form provision eg sixth form colleges. Therefore the figures that the Department could supply from the School Census would only provide partial coverage, would not be representative of all sixth form activity and some local authority data and comparisons would be invalid because of differences in sixth form provision between local authorities.

Average number of appropriate[1] schools within two miles by local authority of pupil residence[2]—January 2010

		National curriculum year group	
LA number	LA name	Year 1	Year 7
201	City of London	97	16
202	Camden	64	12
203	Greenwich	40	6
204	Hackney	86	16
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	56	8
206	Islington	84	14
207	Kensington and Chelsea	64	11
208	Lambeth	66	12
209	Lewisham	53	9
210	Southwark	80	14
211	Tower Hamlets	84	16
212	Wandsworth	51	9
213	Westminster	64	11
301	Barking and Dagenham	35	9
302	Barnet	31	8
303	Bexley	30	7
304	Brent	41	10
305	Bromley	23	5
306	Croydon	29	7
307	Ealing	34	9
308	Enfield	33	8
309	Haringey	58	12
310	Harrow	27	19
311	Havering	18	6
312	Hillingdon	21	8
313	Hounslow	27	7
314	Kingston	23	5
315	Merton	43	6
316	Newham	58	12
317	Redbridge	33	10

Average number of appropriate[1] schools within two miles by local authority of pupil residence[2]—January 2010

		National curriculum year group	
LA number	LA name	Year 1	Year 7
318	Richmond upon Thames	26	6
319	Sutton	28	7
320	Waltham Forest	42	11
330	Birmingham	37	8
331	Coventry	29	6
332	Dudley	24	6
333	Sandwell	32	7
334	Solihull	19	5
335	Walsall	27	6
336	Wolverhampton	27	7
340	Knowsley	22	4
341	Liverpool	33	7
342	St Helens	17	3
343	Sefton	19	5
344	Wirral	20	4
350	Bolton	29	5
351	Bury	24	5
352	Manchester	39	6
353	Oldham	37	7
354	Rochdale	23	5
355	Salford	28	6
356	Stockport	28	5
357	Tameside	29	5
358	Trafford	24	6
359	Wigan	19	4
370	Barnsley	13	2
371	Doncaster	11	2
372	Rotherham	14	3
373	Sheffield	20	4
380	Bradford	30	5
381	Calderdale	17	3
382	Kirklees	18	4
383	Leeds	22	4
384	Wakefield	13	2
390	Gateshead	23	3
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	27	4
392	North Tyneside	20	5
393	South Tyneside	24	5
394	Sunderland	17	4
420	Isles of Scilly	1	1
800	Bath and North East Somerset	9	2
801	Bristol, City of	27	6
802	North Somerset	8	2
803	South Gloucestershire	15	3
805	Hartlepool	17	3
806	Middlesbrough	25	5
807	Redcar and Cleveland	11	3
808	Stockton-on-Tees	18	4
810	Kingston upon Hull, City of	25	4
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	6	1
812	North East Lincolnshire	15	4
813	North Lincolnshire	8	2
815	North Yorkshire	5	1
816	York	14	3
821	Luton	22	6
822	Bedford Borough	12	4
823	Central Bedfordshire	9	3
825	Buckinghamshire	8	2
826	Milton Keynes	16	3
830	Derbyshire	9	2
831	Derby	19	4
835	Dorset	4	1
836	Poole	11	8
837	Bournemouth	13	5
840	Durham	8	2
841	Darlington	14	3
845	East Sussex	7	2
846	Brighton and Hove	19	4
850	Hampshire	8	2
851	Portsmouth	21	6
852	Southampton	20	5
855	Leicestershire	9	2
856	Leicester	29	6
857	Rutland	3	1
860	Staffordshire	11	3
861	Stoke-on-Trent	21	5
865	Wiltshire	6	1
866	Swindon	18	4
867	Bracknell Forest	13	3
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	10	3
869	West Berkshire	8	2
870	Reading	21	3
871	Slough	14	7
872	Wokingham	11	3
873	Cambridgeshire	6	1
874	Peterborough	16	4
876	Halton	20	3
877	Warrington	19	3
878	Devon	5	1
879	Plymouth	21	5
880	Torbay	12	3
881	Essex	10	2
882	Southend-on-Sea	14	4
883	Thurrock	11	3
884	Herefordshire	5	1
885	Worcestershire	10	3
886	Kent	9	3
887	Medway	18	5
888	Lancashire	15	3
889	Blackburn with Darwen	23	5
890	Blackpool	17	5
891	Nottinghamshire	12	3
892	Nottingham	30	5
893	Shropshire	5	1
894	Telford and Wrekin	12	3
895	Cheshire East	9	2
896	Cheshire West and Chester	11	2
908	Cornwall	4	1
909	Cumbria	7	1
916	Gloucestershire	10	2
919	Hertfordshire	14	3

Average number of appropriate[1] schools within two miles by local authority of pupil residence[2]—January 2010

LA number	LA name	National curriculum year group Year 1	Year 7
921	Isle of Wight	5	2
925	Lincolnshire	5	2
926	Norfolk	7	2
928	Northamptonshire	11	2
929	Northumberland	6	3
931	Oxfordshire	8	2
933	Somerset	6	2
935	Suffolk	8	2
936	Surrey	10	2
937	Warwickshire	9	2
938	West Sussex	9	2
	England	20	4

[1] Appropriate schools are based on the statutory age range of schools and the gender of the school. For year 1 pupils maintained primary schools and academies. For year 7 pupils maintained secondary, city technology colleges and academies. The school's admissions policy and religious character are not taken into account. Does not include special schools.

[2] Pupils who are resident within the LA boundary but schools could be located outside LA boundary.

Notes:

Data is taken from the School Census 2010 and so includes information only from those schools who made a census return.

The number of schools within two miles is based on the straight line distance between the pupil's postcode and the school's postcode.

Source:

School Census 2010

Schools: Discipline

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to improve discipline in schools. [6749]

Mr Gibb: It is this Government's intention to give heads and teachers the powers they need to ensure discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour. In a statement to the House on 7 July I announced that we will take steps to strengthen teachers' powers to search pupils; issue shorter and clearer guidance on the use of force; and remove the requirement to give 24 hours written notice when giving pupils detentions. We will also give teachers the strongest possible protection from false accusations.

Schools: Finance

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his letter of 16 June 2010 to directors of children's services and local authority chief executives, what representations he has received on changes in support for school activities through the local delivery support grant following the proposed change to the funding level provided to local authorities through that grant. [6290]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education has not received any representations on the changes to the local delivery support grant funding announced on 16 June 2010 to local authorities.

Schools: Management

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many proposals for free schools have been received from groups in *(a)* Enfield North constituency, *(b)* the Enfield local education authority area and *(c)* England. [6750]

Mr Gibb: As of 7 July 2010, the Department for Education has received the following numbers of free school proposal forms:

(a) 0 proposals from groups in Enfield North constituency;

(b) 0 proposals from groups in Enfield local authority;

(c) 34 proposals from groups in England.

Young People: Unemployed

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the likely effects on careers advice and support for young people not in employment, education or training of recent reductions in local authorities' area-based grant allocations. [6506]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 July 2010]:* The savings from the Department for Education's Area Based Grant (ABG) to local authorities are part of the local government contribution to deficit reduction in 2010-11, which represents a 3.6% cut in funding to local authorities. We expect them to consider the need for savings across all areas of expenditure, regardless of whether the initial source of funding is formula or area based, taking account of their statutory responsibilities and of the Government's commitment to protecting front line services wherever possible. The reduction in ABG does not imply a direct cut to those services funded by the grant, which include careers advice and support for young people not in employment, education or training.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority: Members

Mr Bacon: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority how many claims by hon. Members were received by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) on *(a)* 23 June 2010, *(b)* 24 June 2010, *(c)* 25 June 2010, *(d)* 28 June 2010, *(e)* 29 June 2010, *(f)* 30 June 2010, *(g)* 1 July 2010, *(h)* 2 July 2010, *(i)* 5 July 2010 and *(j)* 6 July 2010; what the total monetary value was of claims for which IPSA completed payment on each such day; and what the average administrative cost to IPSA was per transaction, including all expenditure by IPSA since its inception. [7730]

Mr Charles Walker: The claims received and paid out on the relevant days are shown in the following table. The amounts have been rounded to the nearest pound.

	2010									
	23 June	*24 June*	*25 June*	*28 June*	*29 June*	*30 June*	*1 July*	*2 July*	*5 July*	*6 July*
Claims received	198	213	163	136	446	298	391	150	381	353
Amount paid out (£)	6,192	31,633	20,486	21,726	0.00	42,222	6,725	63,581	49,965	30,275

IPSA has advised me that any calculation of the average cost to IPSA per transaction to date, including all expenditure incurred by IPSA since its inception, would not provide an accurate reflection of the transaction cost. IPSA is exploring the best way to present these data and will provide an average cost per transaction after its first sixth months of operation and again after its first full year.

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what further consideration has been given for claims by hon. Members to be made on paper with all supporting evidence. [8639]

Mr Charles Walker: IPSA has advised me that the merits of introducing a paper-based system for claiming expenses were considered during the start-up phase of IPSA. It was concluded that in line with current expectations of IT-led delivery within the public sector, it would be inappropriate to design a new expenses process which was not based at least in part on an IT-led solution.

IPSA remains of the view that an IT-led, rather than paper-based, system is most appropriate. Using an IT-led solution allows IPSA to achieve a high level of transparency more easily and cheaply than an equivalent manual approach. It will also allow any future changes to processes to be more easily implemented.

IPSA does not intend to introduce a parallel, paper-based system for MPs' expenses.

Mr Winnick: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority what the average length of time taken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is from receipt to payment of a claim by an hon. Member. [8640]

Mr Charles Walker: As of 13 July 2010, the average time from receipt of correct supporting documents to payment is 15 working days. IPSA's steady state target is for this period to reduce to 12 working days by the last quarter of 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Decent Homes Programme

17. **Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the Decent Homes programme. [8517]

Grant Shapps: The Government believe all social housing should meet a minimum standard of decency. But I must remind the hon. Member that the last Government left a legacy of a capital investment backlog of £3.2 billion in council housing. They also left a legacy of high public sector borrowing which we cannot sustain. Future funding for the Decent Homes programme will be decided in the context of the Government's spending review.

Business Rates: Small Businesses

23. **Mr Burrowes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to assist small businesses with payment of business rate bills. [8523]

Robert Neill: We are doubling the level of small business rate relief in England for one year, from 1 October 2010. Over half a million businesses in England are expected to benefit, with approximately 345,000 businesses paying no rates. We are also committed to finding a practical way to make SBRR automatic.

Local Authorities: Debt Advice

24. **Yvonne Fovargue:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effect on the provision of local authority debt advice services of a reduction in local authority funding; and if he will make a statement. [8524]

Robert Neill: Many thousands of indebted clients are helped each week through Government programmes such as the Financial Inclusion Fund and the Community Legal Advice service and by local authorities through their support for third party provision. Local authorities are free to make their own decisions about where savings in 2010-11 are found.

Housing Market Renewal

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for changes to the funding of the Housing Market Renewal scheme; and if he will make a statement. [8518]

Andrew Stunell: The long-term plans for programmes such as Housing Market Renewal will be set out by the Government after the spending review later in the year.

Strata Homes

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the value for money of the Homes and Communities Agency KickStart grant given to Strata Homes in Retford. [8521]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) undertook a rigorous due diligence process to assess all shortlisted Kickstart schemes. A core eligibility criteria was value for money. Any scheme, such as Strata Homes in Retford, which has passed due diligence will have met these criteria.

Chief Fire Officers Association

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Government funding has been allocated to the Chief Fire Officers' Association in each year since 2005. [R] [7917]

Robert Neill: Funding provided to the Chief Fire Officers' Association since 2005 is as follows:

£000

	CFOA	*National Resilience*[1]	*FiReControl*[2]
2005-06	815	—	206.6
2006-07	723.4	—	246.2
2007-08	760.1	—	199.6
2008-09	505	2,561.1	250.2
2009-10	470	5,420	317.4
2010-11 (YTD)	[3]—	2,773.3	83.7

[1] Payments to CFOA National Resilience Ltd to provide the on-going governance and assurance function for the fire and rescue service's major national incident capability, including staffing; centralised training; and asset refresh costs.

[2] Secondment of specialist staff to the project.

[3] Not yet agreed.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on legal advice in each year since 1997. [7563]

Robert Neill: The following table shows total spend on legal advice for the last financial year for *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental bodies. Details of expenditure in earlier years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

2009-10	*Total (£)*
Communities and Local Government	9,564,505
Government Office Network	54,714
Planning Inspectorate	0
Fire Service College	41,659
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	0
Housing and Communities Agency	11,913,217
Ordnance Survey	765,889
FireBuy	693,685
Audit Commission	0
Lease	3,000
Valuation Tribunal Service	55,567
Tenant Service Authority	0
Community Development Fund	19,646
Housing Ombudsman	24,702
Standards Board	0
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	1,197,041
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation	996,364
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation	360,657
Total	25,690,648

Departmental Location

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8299]

Robert Neill: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the spending review.

Fire Services

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on the proposed transfer of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service Control Centre; and if he will make a statement; [8584]

(2) what his policy is on regionalisation of fire service control rooms; and if he will make a statement. [8585]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham) on 17 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 526W.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Minister in his Department with responsibility for the fire service will meet representatives of fire service trade unions in *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex to discuss plans for regionalisation of fire service control rooms; and if he will make a statement. [8586]

Robert Neill: Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, as the employer of control room staff, is the local body with which the trade unions should discuss plans for fire service control rooms.

Joint consultative committees have been set up in many parts of the country to discuss the implications of transfers with representative bodies at the appropriate level including, I understand, in Essex and the rest of the East of England.

At the national level, I hold regular meetings with representative bodies on a range of fire issues, including the FiReControl project.

Fire Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many attacks have been recorded on members of fire crews in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Metropolitan police area of London in each of the last 10 years. [8583]

Robert Neill: The Department has been collecting figures on attacks on firefighters based on returns from Fire and Rescue Authorities since 2004. The following table shows the number of attacks in Essex Fire and Rescue Authority and London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority reported to the Department. We do not yet have information for 2009-10.

Number of attacks notified to CLG by year of incident and FRA

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Essex	n/a	17	17	6	15
London	n/a	10	15	6	11

Government Office for the North East

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the Government office for the north-east. [8654]

Robert Neill: The coalition Government's 'programme for government' published on 20 May stated that

> "we will abolish the Government office for London and consider the case for abolishing the remaining Government offices".

We are currently discussing this with interested parties, including the trades unions.

This proposal is part of our broad agenda on decentralisation, transferring power and influence to local people and local authorities, and removing the bureaucracy of the regional state.

Local Government Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of redundancies and *(b)* the Government's planned changes in the level of redundancy payments which would be required to make the Government's planned savings in local government expenditure. [8558]

Robert Neill: Savings in local government expenditure—and the implications of those savings—are being considered as part of the spending review. Redundancy decisions are for individual councils to take within the discretions provided by the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

Local Government Finance: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to written ministerial statement of 10 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 16-17WS, on the local government savings package, what assessment he has made of the effects on Sunderland local authority of the reduction in the funding allocated by his Department to the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. [8242]

Robert Neill: Tackling the UK's record deficit is the Government's top priority, and we believe that it is right that local authorities make a contribution to the efficiency savings of £6.2 billion in 2010-11. We have adopted a fair approach to the reductions in grants and funding streams and have limited the amount councils lose. The impact on the area of reductions in grants this year will be for the local authority to decide. We have ensured that councils, including Sunderland, are able to deliver essential frontline services by making no changes to the £29 billion they receive through formula grant and by increasing flexibility for local spending decisions through removing restrictions on how they spend their money.

Local Government: Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of local authority staff in the category of *(a)* employed and *(b)* contracted out under agreements which have time to run the terms and conditions of which cannot be changed in the next three years. [8630]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally. The terms and conditions of local authority staff are matters for each council as the employer.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Budget Red Book 2010, page 27, section 1.67, when the Government plan to bring forward legislation to cancel backdated business rates bills for newly assessed properties that were split from a larger rateable property. [8559]

Robert Neill: We are committed to bringing forward primary legislation at the earliest opportunity to cancel the backdated element of certain backdated business rates bills.

Planning

Simon Reevell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department plans to publish its National Planning Framework; and if he will make a statement. [8307]

Greg Clark: In the coalition agreement the Government stated that they will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development. Work is under way to prepare this framework and it will be presented to Parliament when it is complete. We will be making an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy.

Property Development: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he next plans to review planning guidance in relation to development on flood plains. [8884]

Robert Neill: The coalition programme states that the Government will radically reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live. The programme also states that the Government will prevent unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk. We will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy shortly.

Rescue Services: Finance

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public funding was provided for urban search and rescue teams deployed overseas in each of the last three financial years. [7912]

Mr Duncan: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided funding for search and rescue in two emergency responses since 2007-08:

(i) £233,000 for the Indonesia Pedang earthquake in September 2009; and

(ii) £451,000 in January 2010 for the Haiti earthquake.

DFID has also provided £60,000 in both 2007-08 and 2008-09 and £80,410 in 2009-10 to the UK fire and rescue service to maintain preparedness and readiness to deploy within 12 hours.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Speeches

Angela Smith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which *(a)* (i) civil servants and (ii) special advisers in his Office and *(b)* other individuals are employed to write speeches for each Minister in his Office. [7299]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office earlier today.

Electoral Commission

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he plans to bring forward proposals for the abolition or reform of the Electoral Commission. [8631]

Mr Harper: The Government have set out a major programme of political reform and will consider the implications for the delivery of elections in due course.

Electoral Systems: Referendums

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what consideration he has given to the merits of participation by Ministers in televised debates as part of the campaign for a proposed referendum on the adoption of the alternative vote system for voting at general elections. [7168]

Mr Harper: The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 provides that each designated lead campaign organisation at a referendum is entitled to referendum campaign broadcasts.

Whether any televised debates are additionally held would be a matter for discussion between potential participants and television broadcasters closer to the time.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will estimate the costs to the public purse other than those borne by central Government arising from administration of the proposed referendum on adopting the alternative vote system for general elections in respect of *(a)* local authorities in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Scottish Executive and *(c)* the Welsh Assembly Government. [7169]

Mr Harper: No such estimate has been made, but savings from combination are shared between all polls. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 798W.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the proposed referendum on electoral reform when *(a)* held on its own and *(b)* combined with elections to the devolved bodies. [8444]

Mr Harper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 798W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equal Pay: Gender

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps the Government is taking to reduce the gender pay gap; and if she will make a statement. [6906]

Mrs May *[holding answer 8 July 2010]:* In the Coalition's programme for government, we set out our commitment to promote equal pay and to take a range of measures to end discrimination in the workplace. In October we will bring section 77 of the Equality Act 2010 into force, ensuring employees can discuss their own pay freely in order to discover whether their pay is discriminatory. We are considering what further measures are necessary to ensure equal pay between women and men and ensure the fair treatment of women in the workplace.

We will also take other steps to improve the position of women at work, for example by extending the right to request flexible working and encouraging shared parenting, including the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave.

Equality: Legislation

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has to enforce the positive action clauses of the Equality Act 2010. [7098]

Mrs May *[holding answer 12 July 2010]:* The general positive action provisions in the Equality Act 2010, together with the positive action provisions for political parties will come into force in October 2010.

We are currently considering our next steps in relation to the positive action provisions relating specifically to recruitment and promotion, and we will make an announcement in due course.

TREASURY

Bank Levy

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria he plans to use to define the institutions and companies which are to be subject to the proposed banking levy; and whether he proposes that all lending institutions should fall within this definition. [7043]

Mr Hoban: As announced at the Budget, the Government will shortly be consulting on the technical details of the design and implementation of the bank levy. The consultation document is available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_bank_levy.htm

The levy will apply to banks, building societies and banking groups. It will not apply to other forms of lending institution and there are no plans at present to extend its scope.

Banks: Finance

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the Exchequer has been of support to the banking industry during the recent economic downturn; and whether these costs will be reimbursed through the sale of equity in the banks. [2101]

Mr Hoban: The impact on the Exchequer of the financial interventions and Bank of England schemes were published in annex B of the June Budget

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexb.pdf.

HM Treasury will publish an updated estimate of the cost of financial sector interventions in future Budgets.

Budget Responsibility Committee

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the selection process was for members of the Budget Responsibility Committee who took the final decision on appointment of the members; and on what terms and conditions these members were appointed. [8107]

Justine Greening: The appointments to the interim Budget Responsibility Committee (BRC) were undertaken on an expedited basis to ensure the Office for Budget Responsibility could perform its functions for the emergency Budget. The Treasury appointed Geoffrey Dicks and Graham Parker at the recommendation of Sir Alan Budd. The terms and conditions for the interim BRC members are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/8174.htm

Car Allowances

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to increase from 40p per mile for the first 10,000 miles the rate at which employees may use their own vehicles tax free. [8627]

Mr Gauke: The approved mileage allowance payments (AMAPs) system was introduced in April 2002 and the rate has remained unchanged since that date.

The Government keep the rates under regular review. The Government consider that the mileage rates are sufficiently high to cover the business motoring expenses of most drivers.

Cheques

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make representations to the Payments Council to reverse its decision to withdraw cheques. [8093]

Mr Hoban: The Payments Council has not taken a decision to withdraw cheques. It will decide in 2016 whether to close the cheque clearing system by 2018. Cheques should only be withdrawn if suitable alternatives are available. Some of the alternatives have yet to be developed, and these must be tested and shown to be working successfully. The Payments Council will report on this and the Government are monitoring progress.

Child Benefit

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on child benefit, when he expects to be able to provide figures for the number of *(a)* mothers who receive child benefit and *(b)* children who trigger payments in Worlsey and Eccles South constituency. [8095]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 183W, on child benefit, when he expects to publish figures for the number of *(a)* mothers who receive child benefit and *(b)* children who trigger child benefit payments in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. [8182]

Mr Gauke: The next publication covering the number of families receiving child benefit from August 2010 is due to be published on HMRC's website in February 2011. This will include analysis by the latest parliamentary constituencies.

The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2009". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

Child Benefit: Dudley

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households on low incomes in *(a)* Dudley borough and *(b)* Dudley North constituency have received child benefit in each of the last five years. [8274]

Mr Gauke: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis, August 2009'. This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

Child Tax Credit: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency have received child tax credit in each of the last five years. [8393]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the average number of recipient families and their entitlements to tax credits, by county, local authority and parliamentary constituency, for 2006-10, are available in the HMRC snapshot publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Geographical Analyses April 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010". These are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* Dudley borough and *(b)* Dudley North constituency in the income band of £41,000 to £50,000 have received child tax credit in each of the last five years. [8394]

Mr Gauke: Analysis of the number of households with incomes between £41,000 and £50,000 in the aforementioned constituencies is shown in the following table. This information is based on provisional information of families receiving tax credits.

Families receiving tax credits with incomes between £41,000 and £50,000

	Dudley North	*Dudley borough*
2006	535	1,800
2007	575	2,110
2008	540	2,095
2009	595	2,345
2010	620	2,335

Further details about the snapshot data used for this analysis can be found in the HMRC snapshot publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Geographical Analyses April 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010'. These are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley Borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency claim child tax credit. [8397]

Mr Gauke: Businesses are not entitled to claim child tax credits.

Corporation Tax

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on each industrial sector of the proposed reforms to the corporation tax regime in the June 2010 Budget. [6406]

Mr Gauke: The reforms to the corporate tax regime announced at the emergency Budget show that the UK is open for business. The impact of the corporate tax reforms will vary across industrial sectors depending on their capital intensity and profitability. The corporate tax burden will fall by over £2 billion per year once all the measures have fully taken effect. The manufacturing sector will see a significant reduction in its corporate tax burden.

Departmental Buildings

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies have spent on relaxation rooms in their properties in each year since 1997. [7130]

Justine Greening: Neither the Treasury nor its agencies have incurred any expenditure on relaxation rooms since 2002-03. Information on spending prior to that date is not available due to a change in accounting system.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department retains information on its former employees who worked on tax policy who have *(a)* resigned and *(b)* retired and subsequently found employment in (i) tax advisory companies and (ii) tax law practices. [8137]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury would only retain this information on ex-employees working on tax policy if within two years of leaving they were being considered for any employment for which they would be required to seek permission under the HM Treasury Business Appointment Rules.

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointment Rules publishes this information on an annual basis and is available online at:

http://acoba.independent.gov.uk/publications.aspx

Departmental Reorganisation

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to relocate officials working in his Department from central London to Bassetlaw. [6560]

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to relocate *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Government bodies for which his Department is responsible (i) out of London and (ii) to the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [8293]

Justine Greening: The location of public sector activity and plans for the Government's estate will be considered alongside other public spending issues over the course of the Spending Review.

Rents: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* 50th percentile rent in 2010-11 and *(b)* 30th percentile rent in 2011-12 for properties of (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five bedrooms in Edinburgh East constituency. [8188]

Mr Gauke: This is a matter for the devolved Administration.

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the annual expenditure by HM Revenue and Customs on *(a)* rent, *(b)* rates and *(c)* maintenance in relation to premises in Northern Ireland. [7172]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) estimate of expenditure for 2010-11 in relation to its premises in Northern Ireland is given in the following table.

Estimated expenditure 2010-11

Expenditure type	*£000, net of VAT*
Mapeley contract unitary charge	5,112
Rent	691
Rates	1,387
Maintenance	237

The majority of HMRC's premises in Northern Ireland, along with the rest of its estate, were included in the 2001 Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) outsourcing deal with Mapeley. Under the terms of the contract with Mapeley, HMRC receives the benefit of fully serviced and maintained accommodation in exchange for an inclusive, property specific unitary charge. As HMRC do not make separate rent or maintenance payments the estimated annual unitary charge expenditure has been provided for these premises.

HMRC occupies four premises in Northern Ireland by way of sharing arrangements with other Government Departments. For three of these properties—Crown Buildings, Antrim; Windsor House, Belfast; and Crown Buildings, Omagh—the accommodation charge incurred is fully inclusive and the rent and maintenance costs cannot be separately identified. These costs are included in the estimate of rent expenditure, in line with how they are reported in HMRC's accounts.

Royal Liverpool University Hospital

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department's review of recent expenditure decisions will include a review of planned funding to rebuild Royal Liverpool University Hospital. [144]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 2 June 2010]:* The Government have now completed its review spending commitments approved since 1 January 2010. A full list of the projects not selected for suspension or cancellation as part of this exercise has been deposited in the Library of the House (DEP2010-1327).

Tax Avoidance: Self-employed

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to repeal the IR35 legislative provisions on intermediaries. [8367]

Mr Gauke: The Government confirmed in the emergency Budget that they are committed to carrying out a review of IR35. Further details will be announced shortly.

Taxation: Business

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Dudley borough had used the HM Revenue and Customs' Time to Pay programme on the most recent date for which figures are available. [8396]

Mr Gauke: HMRC collates information on the number and value of time to pay arrangements granted through the Business Payment Support Service (BPSS).

At any point in time a business may have more than one arrangement covering its different tax liabilities. A business may be granted a number of successive arrangements.

Following contact with the BPSS between 24 November 2008 and 4 July 2010:

30,900 arrangements spreading payments covering tax debts worth £540 million have been granted to businesses in the west midlands; and

1,870 arrangements spreading payments covering tax debts worth £39 million have been granted to businesses in Dudley borough.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what date he has set for the conclusion of his Department's consultation on the tax treatment of furnished holiday lettings; [8380]

(2) with reference to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1383W, on taxation: holiday accommodation, how many responses *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs received from operators of long-term residential lets on proposals to extend furnished holiday lettings relief to operators of self-catering holiday properties; and how many such responses sought the abolition of such relief; [8381]

(3) with reference to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 177W, on taxation: holiday accommodation, who the interested parties were with whom meetings were held; [8382]

(4) if he will direct HM Revenue and Customs to examine the tax treatment of rented furnished accommodation in French law for the purposes of its consultation on compliance of UK rules with EU law; [8435]

(5) if he will direct HM Revenue and Customs to write to each respondent to the original consultation on furnished holiday letting rules to invite a response to the fresh consultation. [8450]

Mr Gauke: The Government will hold a public consultation over the summer on the furnished holiday lettings tax rules. The consultation will last for 12 weeks.

Government Ministers and officials have discussions and meetings with a wide variety of organisations as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all representations made or meetings held.

HM Revenue and Customs is aware of the French system for taxing furnished accommodation.

The Government do not intend to write to everybody who responded to the 2009 consultation but we will act to publicise the consultation and ensure the main tourism industry groups are told when the documents are published so they can alert their members.

VAT: Construction

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on the number of jobs in the construction sector of a reduction of five per cent. in the standard rate of value added tax. [8373]

Mr Gauke: No such estimate has been made.

However, to compensate for the revenue lost from reducing the standard rate of VAT by 5%, an increase in another tax would be needed. Since VAT is a relatively efficient tax, economically, the net result with an increase of another tax would be the likely loss of jobs across the economy.

VAT: West Midlands

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in *(a)* the West Midlands, *(b)* Dudley borough and *(c)* Dudley North constituency were registered for value added tax in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many new businesses registered for value added tax in the same period. [8207]

Mr Gauke: The existing population of VAT registered businesses and the number of businesses that registered for VAT during the year, for years since 2005, is shown for the west midlands region; the west midlands metropolitan county; the borough of Dudley; and Dudley North constituency in the following two tables.

Table 1: The number of enterprises registered for VAT at the start of the year

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
West midlands region	157,585	160,780	163,405	167,075
West midlands county	60,195	61,375	62,325	63,500
Borough of Dudley	7,950	8,125	8,255	8,420
Dudley North	1,715	1,765	1,770	1,840

Table 2: The number of enterprises registering for VAT each year

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
West midlands region	14,815	14,785	15,720
West midlands county	6,245	6,185	6,540
Borough of Dudley	780	765	785
Dudley North	180	165	210

These figures came from the report 'Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT-Registrations and De-registrations', published by The Department for Businesses Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in November 2008. This report is no longer published.

Welfare Tax Credits

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 186W, on welfare tax credits, when he expects to be able to publish information on the number of households in Worsley and Eccles South constituency which receive tax credits. [8096]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 186W, on welfare tax credit, when he expects to provide figures for the number of households in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency which receive tax credits; [8378]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 298-9W, on welfare tax credit, when he expects to be able to provide figures for the number of households in Houghton and Sunderland South constituency who receive tax credits and have an income of over £30,000. [8379]

Mr Gauke: The information requested will be available from the HMRC website in December 2010. This will include analysis by the latest parliamentary constituencies.

The latest information on the number of families with children benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010'. This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households which will lose income as a result of the implementation of his proposals to *(a)* reduce the tax credit second income threshold to £40,000, *(b)* increase the first and second withdrawal rate to 41 per cent., *(c)* taper the family element of child tax credit immediately after the child element, *(d)* remove the baby element of child tax credit, *(e)* remove the 50 plus element of working tax credit, *(f)* reverse the child tax credit supplement for children aged one and two years, *(g)* reduce the income disregard from (i) £25,000 to £10,000, (ii) £10,000 to £5,000, *(h)* introduce an income disregard of £2,500 for falls in income and *(i)* reduce the backdating of tax credits for changes of circumstances from three months to one month in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; and what estimate he has made of the average change in total household income consequent on the implementation of each such proposal in each such year in (A) cash and (B) real terms in (1) the West Midlands, (2) Dudley borough and (3) Dudley North constituency. [8302]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Bishop Auckland (Helen Goodman) on 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 460W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Dudley

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of proposals in the June 2010 Budget on those resident in *(a)* Dudley borough and *(b)* Dudley North constituency who are in receipt of (i) child benefit and (ii) tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [8276]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available.

The effect of the Budget is modelled based on data from the Family Resources Survey, which does not contain a large enough sample to produce results at a local authority or constituency level.

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* Dudley borough and *(b)* Dudley North constituency in the annual income band of (i) £10,000 to £20,000, (ii) £21,000 to £30,000, (iii) £31,000 to £40,000, (iv) £41,000 to £50,000, (v) £51,000 to £60,000 and (vi) £60,000 or more are in receipt of tax credits. [8305]

Mr Gauke: This information is published in the HMRC publication 'Household Income distribution of Tax Credits families by Westminster Constituency—April 2010', a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library and will be published on HMRC's website shortly.

Welfare Tax Credits: Edinburgh

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in Edinburgh East constituency have an income of over £30,000. [8178]

Mr Gauke: This information is published in the HMRC publication 'Household income distribution of tax credits families by Westminster constituency—April 2010', a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library and will be published on HMRC's website shortly.

Welfare Tax Credits: Scotland

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in each parliamentary constituency in Scotland have an income of over £30,000. [8760]

Mr Gauke: This information is published in the HMRC publication "Household Income distribution of Tax Credits families by Westminster Constituency—April 2010", a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library and will be published on HMRC's website shortly.

Welfare Tax Credits: Stirling

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in receipt of tax credits in Stirling have an income of over £30,000. [8313]

Mr Gauke: The number of households in receipt of tax credits in Stirling with an income over £30,000 as at April 2010 was 2,090.

These estimates are based on provisional information on families receiving tax credits as at April 2010. Further details about this data can be found in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Geographical Analysis, April 2010". This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Working Tax Credit

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the number of *(a)* working tax credit over-payments and *(b)* changes to levels of earnings disregard in each of the last three years. [8120]

Mr Gauke: The number of tax credits awards that were overpaid, from 2003-04 to 2008-09, are available in the HMRC publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2008-09. Supplement on Payments in 2008-09'. This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-final-awards-supp-may10.pdf

The disregard for income rises has remained at £25,000 since 2006-07. It will decrease to £10,000 in 2011-12, and then to £5,000 in 2013-14.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 6 July 2010

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Global Poverty

The following is an extract from the speech of the Minister of State, Department for International Development during the Global Poverty debate:

"Additional climate finance, as the previous Government made clear, will come from the existing aid budget."

[Official Report, 1 July 2010, Vol. 512, c. 1103-1104.]

Letter of correction from Mr Alan Duncan:

The Minister of State for International Development made a small error during his closing remarks in the Global Poverty Debate on 1 July 2010.

He said "Additional climate finance, as the previous Government made clear, will come from the existing aid budget".

He meant to say "UK Fast Start climate finance, as the previous Government made clear, will come from the aid budget."

EDUCATION

Education Maintenance Allowance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of education maintenance allowance payments. [871]

[Official Report, 14 June 2010, Vol. 511, c. 307W.]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 June 2010]:* The Government are committed to retaining the education maintenance allowance (EMA). The budget for 2010-11 is £564 million, enabling young people aged 16 to 19 in England who meet residency criteria and have a bank account to receive EMA payments if their household income is under £30,801 (based on evidence from the last full financial year).

Letter of correction from Mr Gibb:

An error has been identified in the written answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North West (John Robertson) on 14 June 2010.

Unfortunately, the last line of the reply as published contained a typographical error and the household income threshold amount should have read £30,810.

The correct response should have been:

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 7 June 2010]:* The Government are committed to retaining the education maintenance allowance (EMA). The budget for 2010-11 is £564 million, enabling young people aged 16 to 19 in England who meet residency criteria and have a bank account to receive EMA payments if their household income is under £30,810 (based on evidence from the last full financial year).

The Minister is writing to the hon. Member for Glasgow North West to explain this error and notify him of the correction.